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Macworld

June 2010
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**BENCH-
MARKED:**
13IN MACBOOK PRO

LAB TEST:
EARPHONES
ELGATO NETSTREAM
PENTAX K-X



SOFTWARE APPS MUSIC MOVIES GAMES

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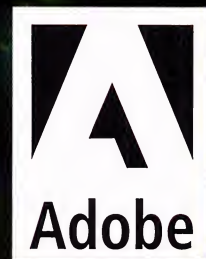
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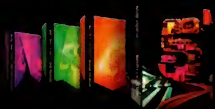
by Adobe's new CS5 Software at Designwyse.



Regarding the New PhotoShop CS5's Content Aware Fill Feature

"I can't think of a single serious Photoshop user I know that wouldn't immediately upgrade to this product, even if there weren't any another new features in it — and I can't think of a single Adobe competitor that is even in the ballpark of delivering something comparable."

Erik Sherman
Renowned writer, editor
and photographer



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CONTENTS

MACWORLD Feature

THE SAME, BUT BETTER



The new 13in MacBook Pros feature longer battery life and new graphics, but aren't really that different to the models they replace, writes JONATHAN SEFF.

After you've spent a good deal of time with the new 13in MacBook Pros, you'll find yourself wondering: "What's the point?" The answer, of course, is that the new models are better. But better in what way? The new 13in MacBook Pros feature longer battery life and new graphics, but aren't really that different to the models they replace. The new 13in MacBook Pros feature longer battery life and new graphics, but aren't really that different to the models they replace.

WHAT'S CHANGED

First, the new 13in MacBook Pros feature longer battery life. The new 13in MacBook Pros feature longer battery life. The new 13in MacBook Pros feature longer battery life.

Sadly, the 13in models don't get the Core i5 or i7 processors but let's hope the Core 2 Duo chips.

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018 JUNE 2010

MACWORLD Feature

GOAL SCORING TVS



The FIFA World Cup is finally here, and to get the most out of one of the world's biggest sporting spectacles you'll need the best TV and accessories. ANTHONY CARLANA walks us through the modern TV minefield.

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030 JUNE 2010

MACWORLD Lifestyle

TV WHEREVER YOU ARE

Elgato makes streaming super-easy



Elgato has delivered a superb dual-HD tuner solution that turns digital TV into a service that can be easily used anywhere in the house.

Elgato EyeTV Netstream DTT

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MANAGING THE CLASSICS

Kim Macdonald gives two tips for coping with iTunes and classical music.

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050 JUNE 2010

MACWORLD Photography

EXPOSING A HIDDEN WORLD



JAY TOWN goes for a full camera conversion to shoot the weird world of infrared light.

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054 JUNE 2010

FEATURES

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018

GOAL-SCORING TVS

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030

REGULARS

iPAD APP GUIDE

APP GUIDE

MAC GEMS

PLAY

iPAD ACCESSORIES

014

016

026

038

042

LIFESTYLE

Elgato EyeTV Netstream DTT

Sony Xplod iPhone car system

050

PHOTOGRAPHY

Infrared camera conversion

EPSON v320 PRINTER/PENTAX K-X SLR

054

HELP AND TIPS

060

MACWORLD

MUSIC

WIRELESS MUSIC
By David Galet

The new Apple iPod nano 24GB is a beautiful device that's easy to use and offers a lot of features. It's a great choice for anyone who wants a portable music player that's easy to use and offers a lot of features. It's a great choice for anyone who wants a portable music player that's easy to use and offers a lot of features.

MOVIES

THE LION KING
By David Galet

The new Apple TV is a beautiful device that's easy to use and offers a lot of features. It's a great choice for anyone who wants a portable music player that's easy to use and offers a lot of features. It's a great choice for anyone who wants a portable music player that's easy to use and offers a lot of features.

VIDEO

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MACWORLD ADVERTISING FEATURE

iPAD ACCESSORIES

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MACWORLD

SCANNING SOLUTIONS

Apple iPad Accessories
By David Galet

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MACWORLD Lab Test

UNDER \$50

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REVIEWS

- LAB TEST**
EARPHONES
- 067 iFrogz, JVC, Griffin, TDK
 - 068 Radius, MUSE, Yamaha, Halo
 - 069 Klipsch, H2O Audio, Aiaiai, JayBird
 - 070 Apple, Motorola, Sennheiser, Etymotic
 - 071 Bose, B&O, Beats by Dr. Dre, Ultimate Ears
 - 072 Bose, B&O, Beats by Dr. Dre, Ultimate Ears
 - 074 Bose, B&O, Beats by Dr. Dre, Ultimate Ears
- REVIEWS**
- 076 Wacom Cintiq 21UX interactive pen display
 - 078 Grundig gener8sol DAB+ radio

- COLUMNS**
- 006 Editorial DAVE BULLARD
 - 024 iPad ANTHONY CARUANA
 - 028 iPhone DANNY GOROG
 - 040 Education MARTIN LEVINS
 - 048 Switcher Sensei DAVID BRAUE
 - 058 Software KEITH WHITE
 - 082 One More Thing... MYSTERY WRITER



DAVE BULLARD

Crunching the numbers

We're halfway through our latest *Australian Macworld* Reader Survey, and the results have been very interesting so far.

Based on the responses already received, our biggest readership age groups are 35-44 years old (25 percent) and 45-54 (25 percent). It's encouraging to see we have two readers under 12 as well!

Seventy-nine percent of you are male, and most of you work in IT (13 percent), education/training/teaching (13 percent) or are retired (11 percent).

Twelve percent of you own an iPhone, 12 percent use an Intel iMac, and 13 percent have an iPod other than an iPod touch (6 percent). MacBook Pros are the second-most-popular Macs at 11 percent.

Something we love here at AMW HQ is the fact that 64 percent of you

collect your copies of the mag – a fact borne out by our very healthy sales of magazine binders.


And we're also very happy to see that 78 percent of you like or love the new design of the magazine. We've had great informal feedback, so it's nice to be able to quantify the reaction. Two people don't like it, and five didn't even notice there WAS a redesign! Thanks guys.

With the redesign we also introduced a few new sections, and all have been well received. Overall, the most popular sections are Help and Tips, Gadget Guide, Mail, News and the One More Thing column. We dropped the news pages in the last two issues, thinking that our news would be best presented online – but looking at these early results it seems that people still want to read their news

in print as well, so we'll probably be reinstating the section.

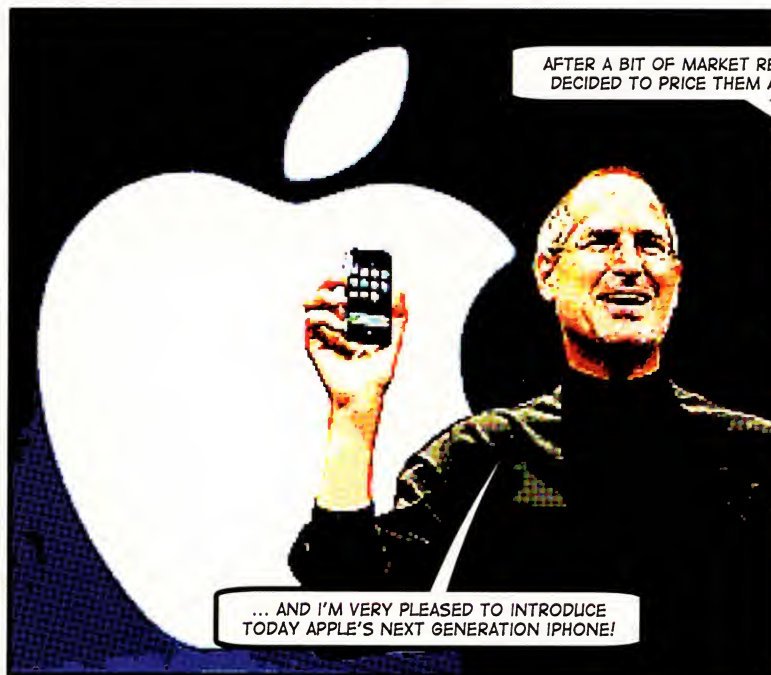
Our readers' wishlist of subjects they'd like to see covered more is headed by Mac software (22 percent), iPhone, iPod touch and iPad apps (16 percent), hard drives (11 percent) and cameras (10 percent).

Your thoughts on the different sections and subjects are hugely important, as they drive our decisions on the makeup of the magazine – so keep them coming. If you haven't already, head to www.macworld.com.au/readersurvey and give us your thoughts.

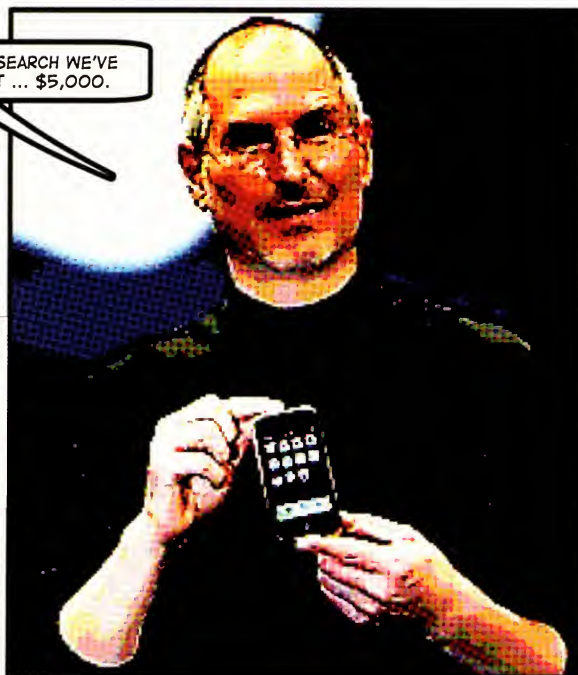
Oh, and did I mention that there is over \$6500 in prizes to be won? 

D Bullard

Macintoon by Roberto De Vido



AFTER A BIT OF MARKET RESEARCH WE'VE DECIDED TO PRICE THEM AT ... \$5,000.



NEW

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Also available is **Internet Security Barrier X6**, which includes VirusBarrier X6 and four other Intego programs, providing parental control, backup, antispam, confidential document protection features and much more.

Intego X6 software is priced lower than X5 versions, and the standard licenses protect up to 2 Macs. Also available: 5-Mac family packs and multi-seat licenses.



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HAVE YOUR SAY

COP THIS, APPLE!



Having recently jumped onto the iPhone freight train I was initially very impressed. My 32GB iPhone had so much potential up until I hit the road blocks.

First, many potential providers of apps are shunned by Apple going backwards to the bad old days of protectionism.

I would like to use Firefox, for example, but apparently they're locked out.

I started loading up all sorts of applications then hit another roadblock. Thou shalt have 11 pages of apps and no more, no more shalt thou

have, delete some. WHAT! I've still got 30GB left! What am I supposed to do with that? Play dumb kids music? It's a Unix machine right, where do I find the Terminal? Where is all that power? Oh come on Apple!

Grow up!

So what about iTunes? Totally monolithic and ugly program with no apparent idea of what the user might possibly want. Let's not get our knickers in a knot, but for crying out loud, Apple! Get your act in order. Why does iTunes hijack the internet whenever it turns on? Why does it open on the Music (ka-ching) store every time it

starts? I do not want to buy any damned little girl music! Hear that you damned psuedo-tele-marketer!

*Bob Harper
Beerwah, QLD*

Two recent changes might make you feel better, Bob: first, as far as mainstream browsers go, Apple has approved the Opera Mini Web Browser app; and second, iPhone OS 4 (to be released at the end of the month) has the ability to 'nest' apps in folders, which will increase the number of apps you can have on your phone from 180 to 2160. See Danny Gorog's iPhone column on Page 28 for more information. – DB

CONEXUS LETTER OF THE MONTH

MEET THE G4 SNAILMAILBOX

I thought I'd send you in a photo of my new mailbox. I call it the 'G4 SnailMailBox' ... built tough for when your email just doesn't get through!

A thing of beauty and tidiness, not to mention the benefits of recycling a redundant computer box. Do I have too much time on my hands? Probably. My boys love it as do the neighbourhood kids. Cool.

If anyone would like me to make them one please contact me and we can discuss it.

If you feel this is newsworthy enough to include in your wonderful magazine that I have been subscribing to now for something like 10 years ... great.

I have been using Macs now since my Motorola Power Tower 180 ... it still works, the lads here use it to keep a record of the jobs we do.

Now on a G5 tower, have an iPhone and will be purchasing an iPad ... oh yeah, the kids now have iPod touches and I also have a Mac mini at home for net stuff. Mac nuts ... you bet!!


Love the magazine layout.

Dale Edwards, Tamworth, NSW

That's just brilliant, Dale. The dream of every Mac nut. Anyone wanting to contact Dale can do so through me at macworldeditor@niche.com.au. – DB



A LOGICAL KEYBOARD

 David Braue's 'Mini to the Max' feature (*AMW*, March 2010) referred to the use of a Microsoft keyboard-and-no-mouse method to manage the Mac mini TV setup. I am building such a scheme, and believe that, better than the flawed Microsoft solution, would be a combined keyboard/mouse from Logitech called the diNovo Edge, Mac Edition. Pluses: Scrolling touchpad with two mouse buttons; recharging dock; Bluetooth; a full set of Mac media controls; and styling to match Apple's


new black and aluminium look. Negatives: Price (\$380); large footprint because of the fixed palm rest; no Windows driver; no numpad.

Need to run Windows on the Mac mini? Use the regular Apple Bluetooth keyboard, or Logitech's diNovo Edge, Windows Edition, which will do all these tricks for Windows.

Peter Spain

Muswellbrook NSW

GAME FOR ANYTHING

 April's *Australian Macworld* details '23 Apps You Can't Live Without'. They're all great apps but the

writer obviously hasn't talked to my six-year-old son for whom the number today is 61; it'll be more soon enough. Only one of his 'can't live without' apps is mentioned in the article: *Flight Control!* As you might guess from his age, all my son's apps are games. At times my iPhone is not mine when he's around. (He already wants his own for Christmas.) Fortunately, there are a large number of free games in the App Store so I'm not yet impoverished obtaining more!

John Paterson

North Carlton, VIC

**Needs NoteBook**

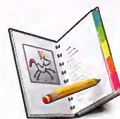
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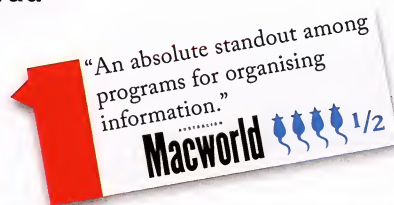
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HAVE YOUR SAY

PLEASE EXPLAIN, ADOBE



First off, congratulations on bringing the magazine back to speed. You nearly lost me!! I'm one who just has to have the latest and greatest, so when Adobe Creative Suite 5 was announced I went to pre-order it. But the price!!!! In Australia to upgrade from CS4 it is A\$1001 while our US cousins will pay US\$599 (on today's rates that is \$655). How can Adobe justify this????

In a call today to Adobe Systems' Sydney office their sales representative was very non committal regarding this pricing discrepancy and referred to such things as currency fluctuations, etc, as being the reasons why. I find this an insult to my intelligence and a slap in the

face as a long time Adobe user (since Photoshop 2.5) as no amount of tax, duty or freight on a small package can equate to an additional \$350. I was referred to a US customer service supervisor who has said similar. Both representatives were not really wanting to say too much to me and are supposedly referring the query up the chain of command. We will see where that goes.

I will be in the US in a few weeks time so I suggested to the Australian representative that I may try to buy it there. I was told that I may possibly be able to do this but that if I do then I would receive NO technical support. This is a ridiculous statement to make in this day and age of 'consumer awareism' and interestingly all support to the

best of my knowledge is US based anyway.

I seriously doubt that a purchase using my Australian-purchased CS, CS2, CS3, CS4 or old FreeHand serial numbers will allow an upgrade from the US, anyway.

Just thought you might be interested in this matter and maybe you could jump on the band wagon and get involved. This sort of pricing discrepancy will only lead to the destruction of Adobe's customer base in Australia. Watch out, Adobe there are now some alternative products out there now – we Aussies are not stupid!!!

*Bruce Symons
Mooloolaba, QLD*

Adobe ANZ group marketing manager Calum Russell replies: We are very proud of CS5, and believe

■ Letters should be emailed to macworldeditor@niche.com.au with a subject header of 'Letter to the Editor' or by post to: Australian Macworld Mailbox, 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205.

■ Letters of fewer than 200 words are given preference. Comments posted to the forums on www.macworld.com.au are also eligible for the prize. We reserve the right to edit letters and probably will.

■ To be eligible for the prize, you must include your full name and address, including state or territory.

Each month, Conexus gives away a prize to the reader who submits what we think is the most interesting letter. This month, the prize is a Native Union Moshj Moshi handset, an old-style phone handset that you plug into your iPhone. Created by French designer David Turpin, the Retro Handset combines classic style with a contemporary edge and is finished with a luxurious soft-touch texture. Our prize, worth \$99.95, is supplied with a base mat and an iPhone-compatible 3.5mm jack.
www.conexus.com.au



TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Conexus letter of the month 1. Instructions on how to enter form part of these conditions of entry. 2. To enter send tips or queries to macworldeditor@niche.com.au with a subject header of 'Letter to the Editor'. Entries will be judged by the editorial staff of Australian Macworld. The judges' decision in relation to any aspect of the competition is final and binding on every person who enters. No correspondence will be entered into. Chance plays no part in determining the winner(s). Each entry will be individually judged based on its degree of interest. 4. Employees, their immediate families and agencies associated with this competition are not permitted to enter. 5. The Promoter accepts no responsibility for late or misdirected entries. 6. The best entry/entries as determined by the judges will win the prize(s). 7. The Promoter is neither responsible nor liable for any change in the value of the prize occurring between the publish date and the date the prize(s) is claimed. 8. The prize(s) is not transferable and will not be exchanged for cash. 9. The winner(s) will be notified by email. 10. All entries become the property of the Promoter. 11. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information provided in connection with this competition is governed by the Privacy Notice. 12. The Promoter is Niche Media Pty Ltd of 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 Ph 03 9948 4900, (ABN 13 064 613 529).

it is going to add enormous value to our extensive customer community in Australia, New Zealand and globally, by broadening their ability to bring their creative concepts to a range of media and saving time and money through faster, easier execution.

CS5 epitomises Adobe's promise to revolutionise how the world engages with ideas and information.

In your letter, you highlighted the area of pricing outside of US and why that pricing appears to differ between markets. We wanted to respond to this as Adobe takes seriously its commitment to making sure all customers, wherever they are, have access to Adobe's tools as equitably as possible.

We establish our prices for Creative Suite products in US dollars, Australian dollars, Euros, Yen and the British Pound on a regional basis using a consistent methodology which takes into consideration local market conditions, how we deliver and support our products in that market, and local market research.

Local market conditions significantly influence our pricing.

These conditions include the costs of doing business in different regions.

In Australia and New Zealand, as in many other countries outside North America, we conduct the majority of our business through our retail and licensing channels. We depend on our retail partners in local markets to help us reach as many customers as possible, support those customers, and much more.

In the Asia Pacific region, we set prices in US and Australian dollars, and generally try to avoid price changes through the product lifecycle.

In fact, the pricing for CS5 offers good value for our customers in a number of areas:

- It is now more cost-effective for customers to move from a suite, to the entire Master Collection – we have lowered the price of this by 20 percent.
- The full price for Design Standard is lower than for CS4.
- For existing suite customers, we have lowered upgrade prices by 5 percent.
- Special pricing is available for

Acrobat Pro customers who wish to move to Creative Suite.

- We also continue to add astonishing innovation to our products, adding new value to the suite without increasing the pricing. For example, in CS5 we have added Flash Catalyst to CS5 Design Premium, Web Premium, Production Premium and Master Collection.

- In addition, CS5 customers can enjoy five online services, free of charge for the first year.

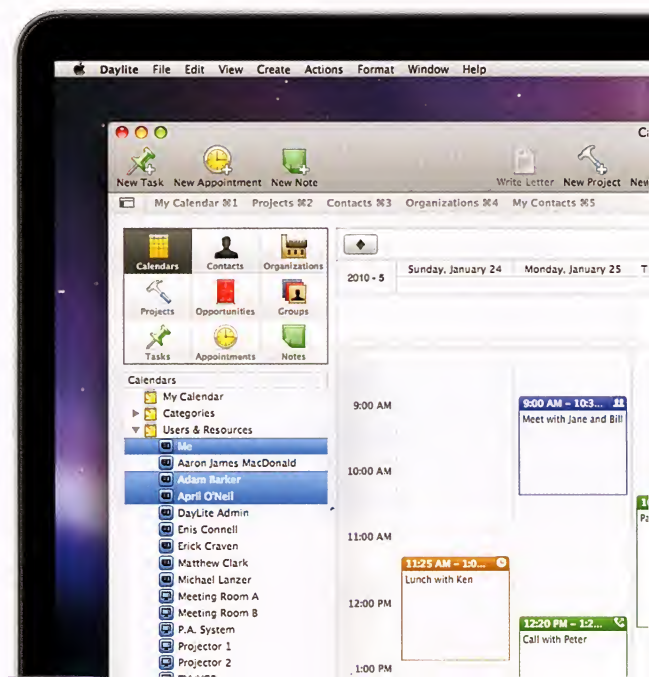
We believe these innovations, together with the value represented by the quantum-leap product features now available in CS5, make it genuinely good value for those professionals who will be using it.

What Adobe delivers to creative professionals, is mission-critical software. Our products are priced appropriately for the value that is delivered, and to reflect the investment we make in research and development; as well as the cost of bringing the software to markets globally including Australia and New Zealand. ☒

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PHOTOGRAPHY ACCESSORIES

Buying a new camera is great, but there are so many accessories you can buy to make sure your photos are great. Lenses, flashes, tripods, bags, filters, iPad and iPhone apps ... you name it.

LAB TEST: DSLR CAMERAS

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Sth Melbourne	64 Clarendon Street	t: 03 9684 3600

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IPAD APP GUIDE

Cool software for the Apple tablet.

1PASSWORD FOR IPAD UTILITIES

1Password encrypts, stores and organises your passwords and other private information, and it automates internet log-ins. You can also use it to store credit card or bank account numbers, and more. The iPad version is better than its iPhone counterpart, but is not as good as the Mac product. **Agile Web Solutions. Price: \$8.99 or \$17.99 for the Pro version (iPad and iPhone). Free iPad upgrade for iPhone Pro users.**



INSTAPAPER PRO NEWS

Instapaper is simple and highly addictive. If you're browsing the web and you find a long, meaty article that you don't have time to read right away, you simply save it to a queue of articles at Instapaper.com which you can access later. The iPad and iPhone apps also format the articles for on-screen reading by removing clutter, changing the font and automatically scaling the graphics. **Marco Arment. Price: \$5.99 (free upgrade for existing users)**



PAGES PRODUCTIVITY

Apple's Pages is a fully functional slimmed-down and inexpensive word processor. You can write and edit, format text, embed images and charts, and more. It doesn't really sync with the desktop, and it strips important metadata when importing Pages or Microsoft Word files, but it's impressive all the same. **Apple. Price: US\$9.99 (about \$11) Local pricing unavailable at time of writing.**



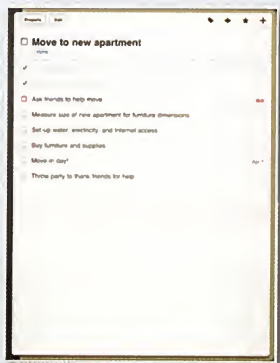
TWEETDECK FOR IPAD SOCIAL NETWORKING

There are already several Twitter clients available for the iPad. We've tried a few, and TweetDeck is our favourite. It's a version of the free desktop client that's popular among Twitter power users. It has the familiar multicolumn view, which you can customise to show messages from all your friends, @mentions, direct messages, saved searches and your Twitter lists. It also shortens URLs. **TweetDeck. Price: Free**



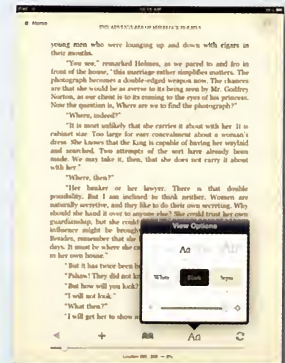
THINGS FOR IPAD PRODUCTIVITY

Things can be the control panel for your life. The iPad version does all the basic tasks that the Mac and iPhone versions do: it keeps to-do lists with start and due dates, and organises those lists into projects, areas of responsibility, next actions and more. It has an attractive interface. You can sync your Things data among the iPad, iMac and iPhone versions as long as they're all on the same network. **Cultured Code. Price: \$23.99**

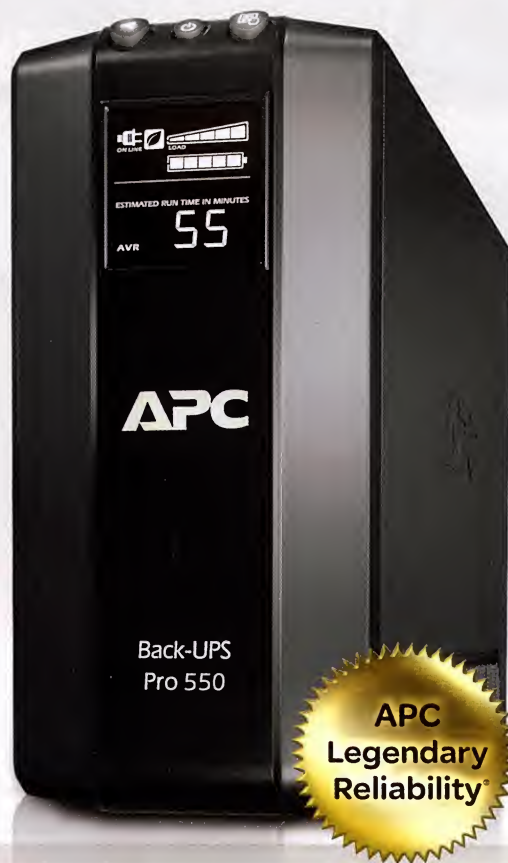


KINDLE BOOKS

Apple's iBooks app was one of the centrepieces of the iPad debut – it's a gorgeous app that has its own online bookstore. However, many users prefer Amazon's Kindle ebook app. It lets you buy and download books from Amazon's Kindle store. As you read, the service saves your place, so if you read a few pages on your iPad you can then pick up where you left off on your iPhone. **Amazon.com. Price: Free**



Even Macs need back-up power: Ours.



Introducing the reinvention of backup power—the APC Back-UPS: unsurpassed protection for iMacs and more.

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Our units protect your iMac and much more, including MacBooks, wired and wireless networks, DVRs, gaming consoles, and external storage devices. APC Back-UPS is the trusted insurance you need to stay up and running and protected from unpredictable power and energy waste!



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High-performance Back-UPS Pro units deliver cost-cutting, energy-efficient features. Power-saving outlets automatically shut off power to unused devices when your computer is turned off or is on standby, eliminating wasteful electricity drains.

(BR550G shown above)

The energy-efficient ES 700G

The Back-UPS ES 700G boasts innovative power-saving outlets, which automatically shut off power to unused devices when your computer is turned off or is on standby, eliminating wasteful electricity drains.

- 8 Outlets • 700 VA/405 Watts
- 68 Minutes Maximum Runtime**
- Coax and Telephone/Network Surge Protection



The best-value ES 550G

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- 8 Outlets • 550 VA/330 Watts
- 51 Minutes Maximum Runtime**
- Telephone Surge Protection



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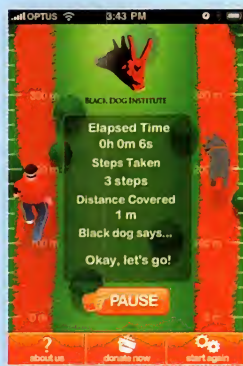


APP GUIDE

iPhone and iPod touch software that's caught our eye.

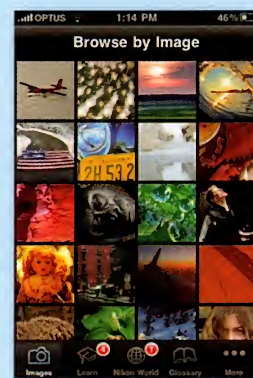
BLACK DOG LIFESTYLE

This app turns your iPhone, iPod touch or iPad into a pedometer so you can measure the distance you walk or jog and, at the same time, improve your mood and learn more about fighting depression (the 'Black Dog'). To 'Exercise your Mood', you set a distance or time goal, choose your gender and click Go! The free app shows a walker (you) on one side, a dog on the other and data in the middle of the screen. The pedometer also stores your personal best time. **Black Dog Institute. Price: Free**



NIKON LEARN & EXPLORE PHOTOGRAPHY

It seems we just can't get enough photography apps, and this offering from Nikon is finding a ready market. Nikon Learn & Explore lets you read the *Nikon World* magazine, either by reading the 'usual' way or by browsing through the amazing images. Best of all is the Insights & Techniques section which is crammed with great advice such as 'Understanding focal length'. Parts of the app are plugs for Nikon products, but don't let that put you off. **Nikon. Price: Free**



BEDLINK UTILITIES

Those lucky enough to have Bang & Olufsen gear hooked up via a BeoLink home automation system will be rapt with this app. It lets you close the curtains, dim the lights, adjust the temperature and control your AV equipment from your iPhone, iPod touch or iPad. Handy presets let you do combinations of actions. The only drawback is you need to be in your local Wi-Fi network to use it, as it won't work over 3G.

Bang & Olufsen. Price: Free



WENDY'S SHAKE 'N' DOG GAME

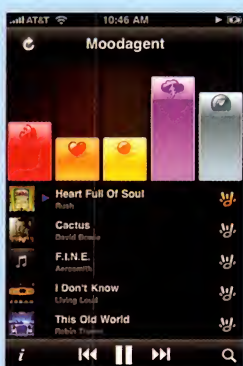
Based on the now-famous Wendy's Shake 'n' Dog milkshake-and-hot-dog promotion, this is a game designed to test your reflexes. Simply pat as many nodding dogs as you can to score points before they disappear off screen. Just don't pat angry dogs or you'll lose a life – or maybe just a finger. Challenge friends and family, check leaderboards on the website to see if you're Australia's top dog, and post scores on Facebook and Twitter.

Wendy's. Price: Free



MOODAGENT MUSIC

This app can help you explore the depth of the music stored on your iPhone or iPod touch by building playlists based on your current mood. You adjust Moodagent's five sliders representing a different musical/emotional quality – Sensual, Tender, Joy, Aggressive and Tempo – and the app will produce a 25-song playlist representing the selected mix of qualities. The results are pretty satisfying and things should improve as Moodagent's song database becomes more extensive. **Syntonic. Price: Free**



TRUEHDR PHOTOGRAPHY

This app uses the iPhone 3Gs's selective-focus feature to merge two images into one. HDR (high dynamic range – see *AMW* April) enthusiasts may argue that the result isn't a true HDR image, but the app expands the iPhone's powers. Using TrueHDR is as easy as pointing and shooting, twice – on a bright area and on a dark area (there are extensive tutorials). The final, merged image produces a better-balanced shot than a single exposure would. **Pictorial. Price: \$2.49**



All apps available from
Apple's App Store through
iTunes or directly from your
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UMBRELLA TODAY?

WEATHER

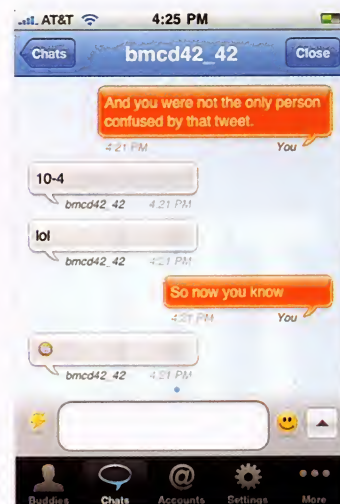
Most people don't need fancy Doppler radar or a lot of meteorological data to answer their most pressing question: "Is it going to rain today?" This app looks to provide an answer as simply as possible by displaying a graphic 'Yes' or 'No' answer. It supports both snow and rain, and its results are fairly accurate. If you'd rather not have to launch the app to find out the forecast, push-notification support lets the app send you a heads-up at a specific time each day. **thoughtbot. Price: \$2.49**



EBUDDY PRO

CHAT

eBuddy Pro aims to be Adium for the iPhone and iPod touch, letting you send instant messages to your buddies on AIM, Facebook, Yahoo, MSN, ICQ, GTalk, MySpace and Hyves. Once you've tweaked a few settings, chatting works well, as you switch between multiple conversations with ease. Its push notifications really make this app worth recommending - it will notify you with a sound or vibration when a new IM arrives. **eBuddy. Price: \$5.99**



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- Intranet
- Sneakernet

Playback



Your Screens





The new 13in MacBook Pros feature longer battery life and new graphics, but aren't really that different to the models they replace, writes JONATHAN SEFF.

Apple has released an updated line of its MacBook Pro portable computers, adding faster processors, new graphics chips, and a longer-lasting battery.

The 15in and 17in MacBook Pros see the biggest jumps, as they now use Intel's Core i5 and i7 processors. Designed with a 32-nanometer process, the Core i5 and i7 sport integrated memory controllers and Level 3 caches. A Turbo Boost feature lets the dual processor cores optimize their performance, allowing speeds of up to 3.06GHz for dual core tasks, and 3.33GHz for tasks involving just one core.

Sadly for fans of the 13in models, these smaller siblings don't get the Core i5 or i7 processors but Intel's older Core 2 Duo chips. But the 13in models remain the least expensive of the Pro line and boast a number of improvements over the models they supersede.

WHAT'S CHANGED

Both new 13in MacBook Pro models include Nvidia's GeForce 320M integrated graphics card, which shares a minimum of 256MB of main memory. This replaces the GeForce 9400M integrated graphics in the previous generation (which shared the same amount and type of RAM). In our testing, the new 13in models achieved much better frame rates on our *Call of Duty* test. For example, at 38.9 frames per second, the 2.4GHz MacBook Pro did 15.2 frames per second better than the higher-end, 2.53GHz 2009 model – an improvement of 64 percent. They still lagged way behind the new low-end 15in MacBook Pro, which garnered 68.4 frames per second thanks to its discrete graphics.

In the area of battery life, Apple claims a three-hour increase over the previous 13in MacBook Pros – the new models offer up to 10 hours of battery life, instead of seven. Part of the longer life is due to a slightly higher-capacity built-in battery – 63.5 watt hours versus 60 watt hours in the previous model.

But Apple credits most of the improvement to the greater efficiency of the GeForce 320M graphics over the 9400M. Our standard battery test, which plays a looped video in

QuickTime until the battery dies, showed a life of 4 hours and 19 minutes for the 2.4GHz model and 4 hours and 33 minutes for the 2.66GHz model.

Those compare favourably to the 2009 13in 2.26GHz (3 hours and 30 minutes) and 2.53GHz (3 hours and 38 minutes) models, as well as the current MacBook model (3 hours and 45 minutes).

In simple terms, the batteries do indeed last longer. (Apple uses a different methodology for battery testing, wirelessly browsing websites and editing text in a word processing document with display brightness set to 50 percent.)

The new MacBook Pros have the same Multi-Touch glass trackpad as before, but the line adds a new trick. All of the new MacBook Pros (including the 13in models) now have inertial scrolling. Just like on an iPhone, iPod touch or iPad, swipe your finger down to scroll through a long web page,

Sadly, the 13in models don't get the Core i5 or i7 processors but Intel's older Core 2 Duo chips."

for example, and the momentum continues the scrolling until it gradually dies off. The feature seems right at home on the MacBook Pro and will be familiar to anyone who has used Apple's iPhone OS devices.

Another new feature, common to the entire MacBook Pro line, is the ability for the Mini DisplayPort connection to output multichannel audio in addition to the video signal it has always carried (the MacBook Pro supports mirroring or extending your desktop on an external display up to 2560 x 1600 pixels, but the adapters needed are all optional accessories).

To test it out, I purchased a Mini DisplayPort to HDMI Adapter. I then connected the MacBook Pro to my HDTV

using the HDMI cable and input that I usually use for my Blu-ray player. Although it worked for video (letting me play beautiful 720p video without problem) the audio didn't play through my TV, instead coming out of the MacBook Pro's built-in speakers.

I asked Apple about it and the company recommends higher-quality cables such as the Griffin Video Display Converter, saying that some lower-priced cables don't work.

WHAT'S THE SAME

As we said before, the 13in MacBook Pro continues to use the Core 2 Duo line of processors. In the 13in size, Apple offers a 2.4GHz dual-core processor in the \$1499 model, and a 2.66GHz dual-core processor in the \$1899 model (up from 2.26GHz and 2.53GHz in the previous generation, respectively). Each has 3MB on-chip L2 cache shared between the two cores.

Some users have wondered why Apple decided to stick with Core 2 Duo processors instead of using the new Intel Core i3 in the 13in line. Although one could cynically speculate that it's designed to 'cripple' the low-end MacBook Pro with old technology to force people to spend more, it seems more likely that Apple didn't want to use the Intel HD integrated graphics that such a move would require (the 15in and 17in models include Intel HD graphics, but have dedicated Nvidia graphics processors as well).

Both models now include 4GB of 1066MHz DDR3 RAM, and support a max of 8GB (previously, the cheaper MacBook Pro only came with 2GB). Just as before, there are two USB 2.0 ports, one FireWire 800 port, a Mini DisplayPort graphics connection, a Gigabit Ethernet port, 802.11n and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR wireless technology, an SD card slot, a full-sized backlit keyboard, an 8x slot-loading dual-layer DVD SuperDrive, built-in stereo

BENCHMARKS: 13-INCH 2.4GHZ & 2.66GHZ CORE 2 DUO MACBOOK PROS

	Speedmark 6	Adobe Photoshop CS4	Cinebench R10	Mathematica mark 7	Compressor 3.0.4	Aperture 2.1.4	iMovie '09	iMovie '09	
	OVERALL SCORE	SUITE	RENDER	SCORE	MPEG ENCODE	IMPORT	IMPORT ARCHIVE	EXPORT	
13-inch MacBook Pro 2.4GHz Core 2 Duo	118	0:48	2:57	3.41	11:11	3:41	1:46	2:00	
13-inch MacBook Pro 2.66GHz Core 2 Duo	126	0:48	2:40	3.6	10:41	3:28	1:47	1:59	
15-inch MacBook Pro 2.66GHz Core i5	146	0:43	2:02	4.93	8:35	2:22	1:28	1:35	
13-inch MacBook Pro 2.53GHz Core 2 Duo (mid 2009)	123	0:52	2:44	3.54	9:44	3:23	1:46	2:01	
13-inch MacBook Pro 2.26GHz Core 2 Duo (mid 2009)	107	0:51	3:03	3.22	10:51	3:44	2:04	2:13	
MacBook 2.26GHz Core 2 Duo (late 2009)	112	0:53	3:05	3.21	10:39	3:58	1:50	2:09	

Best results in pink. Reference systems in italics.

Call of Duty score is in frames per second. MathematicaMark is a performance score. All others are in minutes:seconds. All systems were tested with 10.6.3 and 4GB RAM. It took to render a scene with multiprocessors in CinemaBench. We used Compressor to encode a MOV file to the application's H.264 for video podcast setting. We timed minutes of AAC audio files to MP3 using iTunes' High Quality setting. We Unzipped a 2GB archive in the Finder. We ran WorldBench 6 multitasking test on a Parallels VM. — Macworld Lab testing by James Galbraith, Chris Holt, Lynn La, and Meghann Myers.

speakers (which sound quite good), a single port for audio in and out (including support for digital output) and a built-in iSight camera.

The new models include 250GB or 320GB 5400 rpm hard drive (up from 160GB or 250GB drive, respectively, at the same speeds).

These MacBook Pros use the same LED-backlit 1280 x 800-pixel glossy display as the previous models (there are no antiglare or high-resolution display options, as there are on the 15in and 17in models). The display are very bright, and the viewing angle is respectable in the horizontal direction, but not that great vertically – you really need to adjust the angle of the display to achieve optimum viewing.

We performed our standard bevy of tests on these new models, and compared them to the previous generation of 13in MacBook Pro, the new 2.4GHz 15in MacBook Pro and the 13in unibody MacBook.

In our Speedmark 6 suite, the new models scored 118 for the 2.4GHz model and 126 for the 2.66GHz model (compared with 107 and 123 for the previous generation, respectively, and 112 for the MacBook) – the difference due, mostly, to the improved frame rate scores thanks to the Nvidia 320M graphics.

Other tests showed rather negligible deltas, with the new models generally doing slightly better than their same-price counterparts from 2009. The one big anomaly was our Compressor test on the 2.4GHz 2010 13in MacBook Pro, which took longer to complete than even the white MacBook. And in our folder duplication and Parallels WordBench 6 multi-task tests, the old higher-end 13in model beat even the new model with a faster processor by a little bit.

In some hands-on testing running Adobe Photoshop CS3 and CS4 and Aperture 3, I found even the 2.4GHz model to be adequate. And while running Windows XP in

	iTunes 9	Call of Duty 4	Finder	Finder	Finder	Parallels WorldBench 6	Handbrake 0.9.3	iPhoto '09	Pages '09
	MP3 ENCODE	FRAME RATE	DUPLICATE 1GB FOLDER	ZIP ARCHIVE	UNZIP ARCHIVE	MULTI-TASK TEST	RIP DVD CHAPTER	IMPORT	OPEN WORD DOCUMENT
	1:41	38.9	0:32	4:03	1:14	6:23	3:14	0:48	2:02
	1:32	39.1	0:37	3:44	1:11	5:55	3:05	0:38	2:11
	1:20	68.4	0:32	3:37	1:12	5:56	2:39	0:43	1:35
	1:28	23.7	0:31	3:41	1:00	5:44	3:08	0:44	2:04
	1:42	19.5	0:45	4:26	1:36	6:40	3:14	0:50	2:08
	1:38	21.7	0:34	4:06	1:18	6:23	3:09	0:49	2:07

Photoshop Suite test is a set of 14 scripted tasks using a 50MB file. Photoshop's memory was set to 70 percent and History was set to Minimum. We recorded how long it took to create thumbnails/previews for 150 photos. In iMovie, we imported a camera archive and exported it to iTunes for Mobile Devices setting. We converted 90 ted 150 JPEGs into iPhoto. We used HandBrake to rip a DVD chapter to the hard drive. We opened a 500-page Word document in Pages '09.



Apple 13-inch MacBook Pro 2.4GHz

Apple, www.apple.com.au

Pros Impressive battery life; improved graphics; ability to output audio using MiniDisplay Port connection; new inertial scrolling; 4GB RAM standard

Cons Modest performance gains over previous generation; only MacBook Pros still using Core 2 Duo processors

RRP \$1499



All of the new MacBook Pros (including the 13in models) now have inertial scrolling. Just like on an iPhone, iPod touch or iPad, swipe your finger down to scroll through a long web page, for example, and the momentum continues the scrolling until it gradually dies off.”

Parallels Desktop 4, encoding an HD MKV file for Apple TV using VideoMonkey, and playing a streaming Netflix TV show episode in Safari simultaneously (with the computer sitting flat on a desk), the back of the MacBook Pro got warm where the battery is, but not uncomfortably so. After running for about 15 minutes, the max external temperature (at the very back, near the serial number) was 107 degrees as measured by an infrared temperature device used to monitor HVAC systems in our office.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. If you already have the previous 13in MacBook Pro, there's not a lot of reason to upgrade unless you simply must have the newest version of everything. The changes to the 13in lineup are mostly about improved graphics and battery life, and they aren't all that different from the year before – and it's somewhat hard to justify the \$1899 model based only on

its larger hard drive and slightly faster processor, which didn't translate to much difference in our tests.

To get the most from the new generation of MacBook Pros, you'll need to step up to the larger sizes, which take advantage of the i5 and i7 processors and their own graphics improvements. Still, at 2.04kg and less than 23cm deep, the 13in MacBook Pro is the most portable Pro model available, and for many users the small weight and size make up for the somewhat limited (comparatively) performance.

And the new models create a wider gap between the 13in MacBook Pros and the like-sized, \$1299 MacBook. Starting at \$200 more than the MacBook, you get a faster processor, an aluminium enclosure, a FireWire port (of the 800 variety), twice the standard RAM, Nvidia GeForce 320M graphics, a built-in SD card reader, a backlit keyboard, a longer-lasting battery, and a trackpad that supports inertial scrolling. 🖱️

Announcing New FileMaker Pro 11

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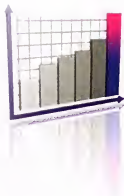


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OR contact our Customer Service Team on - 1800 028 316 (Aust.) - +61 2 9438 4252 (Intl.)



iPAD

ANTHONY CARUANA

Long and winding road

If you're in the market for an iPad you either have yours already or are about to get one. So as the lucky ones bask in the glow of the iPad's LED display we reckon it's a good time to take a look at how Apple has been moving inexorably towards a tablet computer for over 20 years.

In the beginning. Of course, the iPad isn't Apple's first tablet. That distinction belongs to the MessagePad, released in 1993. Interestingly, the MessagePad, running the Newton operating system, offered features that are lamented as missing in the iPad with expansion capability and handwriting recognition.

While the first version of that handwriting recognition came from a Russian company, Newton OS 2.0 had a new system called Rosetta.

The MessagePad, running the Newton operating system, offered features that are lamented as missing in the iPad."

Even today, OS X includes handwriting recognition – Inkwell – that has been exploited by MacBook modders like Axiotron, which makes the Modbook.

However, the genesis of the MessagePad came years before, during the stewardship of John Sculley when he was CEO of Apple. While many remember Sculley as the man who ousted Steve Jobs from Apple, and the years until Jobs' return in 1997 as Apple's darkest days, this

It was at about this time that Apple started to create the foundations of the product range it has today with the all-in-one iMac and funky new iBook hitting the market. At the same time as Apple was rebuilding, the Windows world was seeing the first tablet PCs come to market and the world waited for Apple to follow suit.

However, the wait was several years long as the team in Cupertino was busy with their new iPod.

While all that was going on, speculation was rife that Apple was working on some sort of tablet. Eager beavers dredged through patent applications made by Apple and found all manner of reference material including some diagrams of what looked to be a tablet. There's little doubt that Apple has been working on a tablet for many years but that they didn't take one to market as it wasn't 'right'.

It wasn't until June 29, 2007, that the world got its first glimpse at what would become the foundation of the iPad. The iPhone hit the market.

A star is born. Some derided the iPhone, but almost everyone saw that Apple had created something that redefined how we interact with our mobile devices. The hardware, as well-designed as it was, didn't really bring anything to the market that no-one had done before. However the user interface was a game-changer.

With the iPhone operating system now in its fourth iteration, the software was mature enough for a new piece of hardware – the iPad. While it does look like a huge iPod touch or iPhone, the new A4 processor, large display and tweaked interface makes the iPad a new type of product – something that we'll spend the next few months looking at in more depth.



was the time where Sculley's dream of the Knowledge Navigator was born.

The Knowledge Navigator had a diary, email, a touchscreen and the ability to browse online libraries, years before the World Wide Web existed. It opened like a book, but it ran what looked like the Mac OS of the day. In other words, it was a lot like the iPad we see today. You can see the Knowledge Navigator video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGYFEI6uLy0

Between then and now. When Jobs returned to Apple, one of the first things he did was rationalise Apple's product range. The MessagePad and its cousin the eMate were among the casualties. Although they were regarded as innovative products they weren't delivering to the bottom line. Some people speculate that Jobs killed them off in an act of spite against the man who fired him years before.

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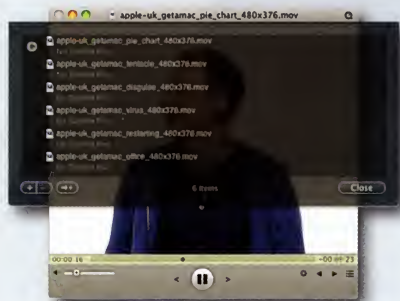
MAC GEMS

The best in low-cost Mac software.

MOVIST

code.google.com/p/movist
VIDEO

VLC media player has long held the crown of 'best free, handle-anything media player' for Mac OS X. But these days, there are a number of quality alternatives, including Movist, which has an easier and more attractive interface than VLC's. Movist not only lets you play a plethora of media formats, it also gives you lots of options for playback size, aspect ratio, cropping and stretching. **Price: Free**



DRAUGHTING

www.dragthing.com
UTILITIES

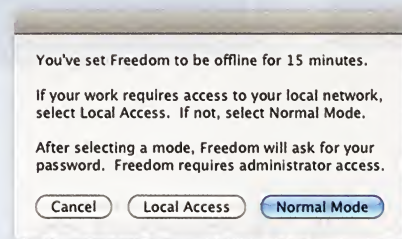
The first thing many of us do after unpacking a new Mac is to install DragThing from TLA Systems. It's been around for years, but the dock-based application launcher has been updated to add greater functionality and improve the interface. It now supports drawers, clippings, spring-loaded folders and previews. And yes, you can still place the Trash on the Desktop! **Price: US\$29 (about \$32)**



FREEDOM

macfreedom.com
PRODUCTIVITY

The internet can be nigh irresistible – especially when you or your kids have work that needs doing. Freedom can help by completely disabling your computer's internet connection. You choose, on launch, how long you want to work internet-free and whether you want to maintain access to your local network. After that, nothing will restore your internet connection before the time's up. **Price: US\$10 (about \$11)**



MACJOURNAL

www.marinersoftware.com
WRITING

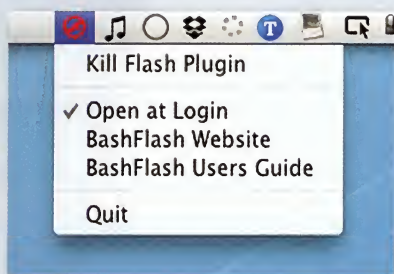
Part word processor and part file manager, MacJournal 5 can handle a variety of media, including photos and videos, but at the heart of the program is a very capable text editor for diarists, bloggers and those who have trouble tracking down everything they write. **Price: US\$39.95 (about \$43)**



BASHFLASH

www.bashflash.com
WEB

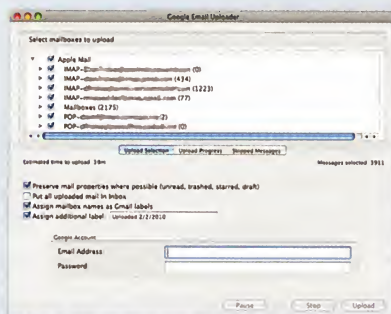
The Safari plug-in Click To Flash lets you choose which bits of Flash content get loaded in your browser, but it can't protect you from Flash you've approved. BashFlash's menu-bar icon indicates Flash's CPU use: none, low, or high (over 30 percent). If Safari is crawling and BashFlash is glowing red, click the BashFlash menu and choose Kill Flash Plugin to kill Flash – and just Flash – across all web pages in Safari. **Price: Free (donations accepted)**



GOOGLE EMAIL UPLOADER

code.google.com/p/google-email-uploader-mac
EMAIL

When moving to Gmail it's easy to import messages from other webmail systems, but importing older messages already on your computer is hard. Now, if you have a Google Apps-hosted Gmail account and you use Mail, Eudora, or Thunderbird, the very clever Google Email Uploader can help. **Price: Free**

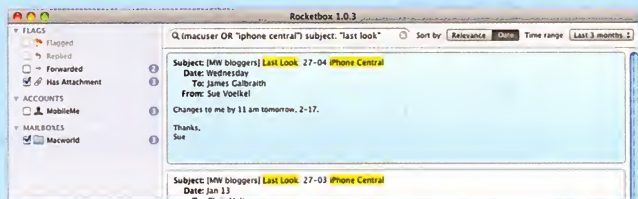


ROCKETBOX

www.getrocketbox.com

EMAIL

If you're frustrated by the limitations of Mail's built-in Spotlight search feature, Rocketbox can help. This very handy plug-in handles all your Mail searches, letting you quickly search by person or using a host of search syntaxes, Boolean operators, and wildcards. Rocketbox displays relevant message excerpts in a separate window. You can filter the results, and display only messages that have attachments or that have been forwarded, flagged or replied to. **Price: US\$14.95 (about \$16)**



SHRINKIT

www.panic.com/blog/2010/02/shrinkit-1-0

UTILITIES

If you have PDFs you'd like to reduce in size so you can more easily send them via email (or, for developers, so you can reduce the size of application bundles), ShrinkIt shrinks PDF files en masse – without a loss of quality – by stripping them of unnecessary data such as preview images. In just a few seconds it provides smaller files, saved in the same location as the originals. **Price: Free**



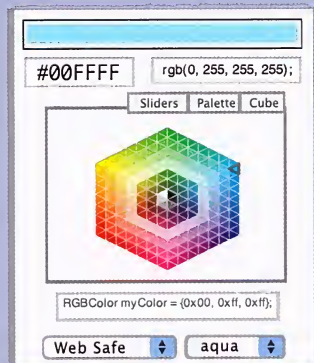
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iPHONE

DANNY GOROG

OS 4.0 – simply better

April was one of the busiest months on record for Apple, with the launch of the iPad, new MacBook Pros and a preview of iPhone OS 4, the next-generation operating system for iPhone, iPod touch and iPad.

Apple announced seven 'tent pole' features for OS 4, but among the most important of the over 100 new user-level features will be multiple-tasking. As is normal, some media have given Apple a hard rap about its implementation of multitasking, with cries like 'It's not true multitasking!' heard easily in the echo chamber.

The reality is, the multitasking that Apple has integrated in OS 4 is very much real and will make a significant impact on the usefulness of the iPhone for users. Let me explain.

If you're running Skype on your iPhone you'll continue to be able to receive calls even if the Skype app isn't running on your phone. If a call comes in, Skype will pop up a notification and your iPhone will start ringing. To all your friends, you'll remain logged in and available. That sounds like a benefit of multitasking to me.

Here's another one. If you like to listen to streaming music like last.fm or Pandora you'll be able to launch the app and set it playing to your desired station and then leave the app to do other things. Assuming your network connection is persistent the music will continue to play in the background when you leave the app. You'll even be able to play/pause and skip/rewind using the standard music controllers that pop-up on the home screen when you double tap the home button.

Adding multitasking to apps will take some work on the part of

developers, but I'm expecting that many of the 200,000 apps will be multi-tasking compliant come launch some time this month.

While multitasking is the thing that most pundits are talking about there are other features announced for version 4 that will have a more important impact on the iPhone user experience.

An enhanced mail app, for example will help by presenting a unified inbox where messages from all of your accounts will show up in the one list. Other mail enhancements

include threaded messages and the ability to open attachments with third-party apps.

iBooks, first announced and released on the iPad, is also coming to the iPhone. In this regard, Apple is playing catchup with the already successful Kindle line of apps (for Mac, iPhone and iPad). Books you buy on either an iPad or an iPhone will be available on the other device, and the books will always be in sync. So, for example if you're reading on your iPad and pick up your iPhone, iBooks will open up to the same page you left off on the iPad.

Apple also took the time to address the problem of having too many apps on your phone by introducing the ability to nest apps within folders. Simply tap and hold to get the icons dancing and then drag one icon on to another to create a folder. The folder



The multitasking that Apple has integrated in OS 4 is very much real and will make a significant impact on the usefulness of the iPhone for users."

is automatically named based on the genre of app you put in the folder, but you can also rename the folder if desired. The folders feature increases the number of apps you can store on your phone from 180 to 2160.

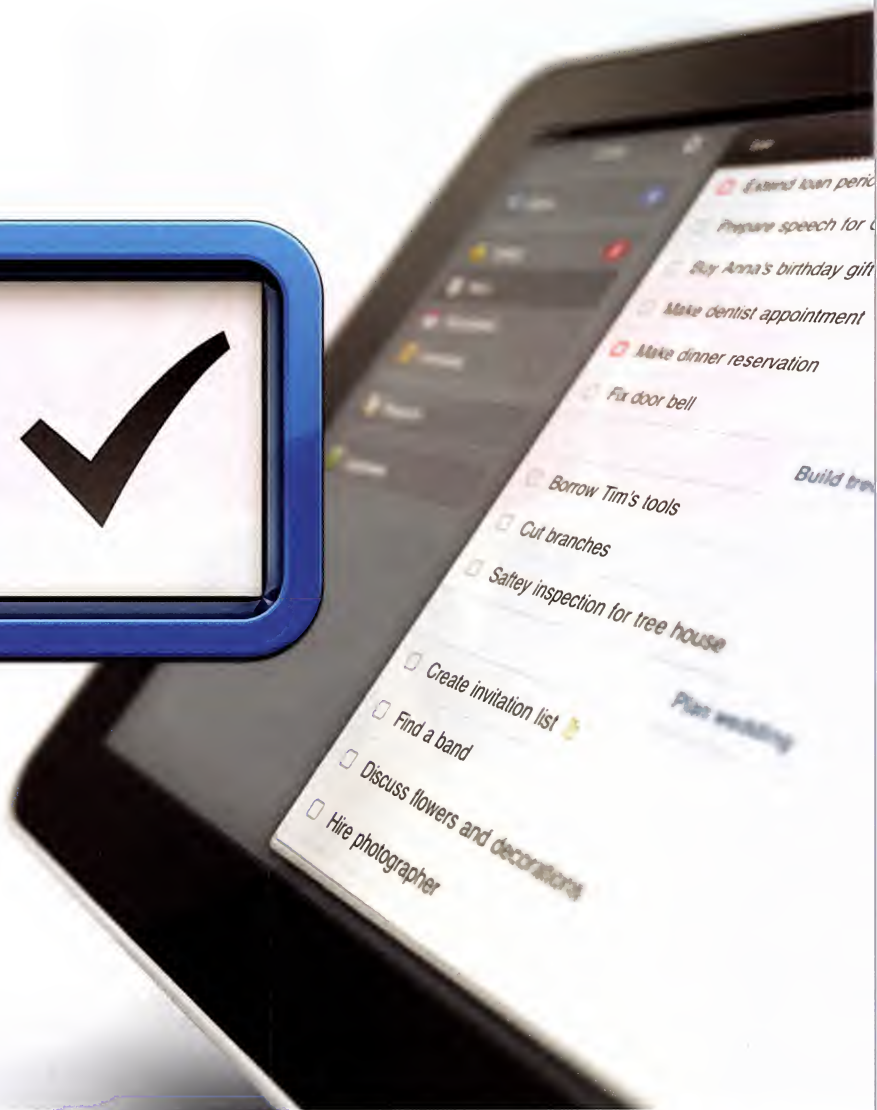
Unlike the Mac, Apple is very serious about getting enterprise traction with the iPhone and iPhone 4.0 delivers upgrades that include better security, scalability and compatibility that make the iPhone a more compelling product for IT managers to deploy.

Finally, Apple unveiled its new iAd advertising platform which will make it easy for developers to include feature-rich media ads in their apps. It also gives developers another way to monetise their apps, and provides advertisers with a new media solution to target users on the iPhone with better, more engaging ads.

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Apple Design Award
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2009 Winner

for iPhone & iPod touch



for iPad



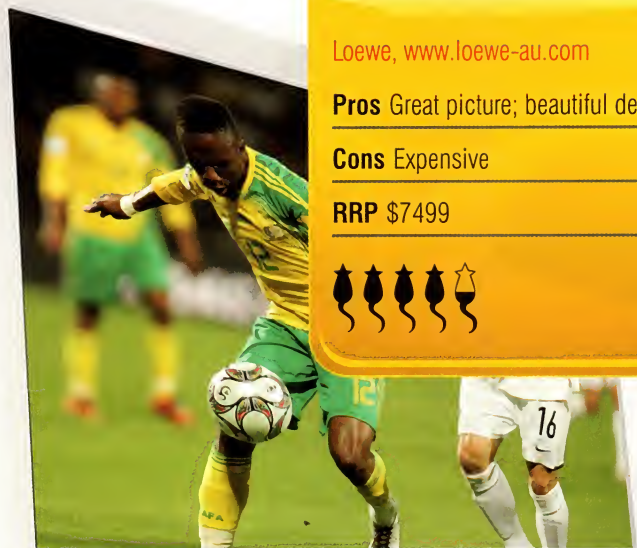
Things can be
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using Wi-Fi.

GOAL SCORING TVS

The FIFA World Cup is finally here, and to get the most out of one of the world's biggest sporting spectacles you'll need the best TV and accessories. ANTHONY CARUANA walks us through the modern TV minefield.







Loewe, www.loewe-au.com

Pros Great picture; beautiful design

Cons Expensive

RRP \$7499



LOEWE CONNECT 42

In a world full of utilitarian LCDs it's nice to see Loewe making sure that the aesthetics of the TV deserve the central place in your lounge. The Connect 42 looks great and delivers crisp, sharp images.

The Connect 42 doesn't require any assembly as the base is already attached. The initial setup process, where channels are scanned and programmed, took about 10 minutes.

Unlike most TVs, cable clutter is managed as all the input ports are hidden behind a removable panel that's held in place with magnets. We connected our antenna, a Blu-ray player and Ethernet cable, and all the cables came out of a single gap in the panel.

We were totally blown away by the image quality. Free-to-air TV, Blu-ray movies and digital content were all displayed in stunning quality. We simply couldn't find a fault. Blacks were deep, colours were vibrant and detail was crystal-clear.

Unlike most TVs, the Connect 42 was smart enough to know when a peripheral was activated. When we turned the Blu-ray player on, the input automatically switched to the first HDMI channel. Even better, the Connect 42's remote was able to control basic, start, stop, forward and rewind functions with out any training. It just worked.

As well as letting you watch TV, this 100MHz TV also integrates a PVR so that you can set and record your favourite TV shows or pause live TV. That's one less device you need cluttering up your entertainment cabinet.

Living up to its 'Connect' moniker, the Connect 42 came with Ethernet and Wi-Fi connections so that we could access YouTube, internet radio services and a media server on our network. There's little chance of being to complain that "there's nothing on".

With 32 countries, over 60 matches, hundreds of players and a TV audience of billions, the FIFA World Cup, to be held in South Africa over the next two months, is second to the Olympic Games in its scope and popularity.

Such a huge event, one that stops work and dominates water-cooler discussions the world over, is sure to push your TV viewing addiction to new heights and will need the latest and greatest viewing gear to get the most from the coverage.

It's fair to say that the television, once a piece of lounge furniture, is one of the most complex pieces of equipment in our homes. In the old days, you'd set a budget, decide how big a set you could afford and choose a brand.

Today, there's the LCD vs LED vs plasma question, the coming 3D revolution and integration into the rest of your AV gear. Once you make those decisions you'll need to understand screen resolutions, refresh rates and myriad other technical specifications.

PLASMA VS LCD AND LED

This is perhaps the most perplexing issue we face when choosing a new television. The easiest part of this equation to solve is LED.

LCD screens require some form of lighting in order to be visible. A good way to see how this works is to reduce the brightness on an LCD screen as much as you can. What you'll notice, if you look really closely, is that the screen is still displaying content – it's just too faint to see.

All LCDs require some sort of lighting in order to be visible. Until recently this was achieved using Cold-Cathode Fluorescent Lamps, or CCFLs. The CCFLs are an array of tubes laid horizontally down the screen so that the light is distributed evenly.

LED, or Light Emitting Diode, backlights are an alternative way of providing light to LCD screens. Although these TV sets are sometimes advertised as being different to LCDs they aren't – they just use a different light source to illuminate the display.

With most LED TV sets, the lights are arranged around the edges of the display. This means that the TV can be much thinner than its CCFL predecessors.

Some sets, however, use local dimming LEDs, where the LEDs are behind the display, in a similar way to CCFL.

In addition to being thinner, most LED screens use significantly less energy to run than CCFL displays. Local dimming LED displays are less power efficient.

Plasma displays work quite differently to LCDs. They use tiny cells of gas that are held between two sheets of glass. The gas in the cells is converted to plasma by applying an electrical charge. For you and me, this translates into plasma TVs generally running hotter than their LCD counterparts and using more energy.

However, plasma displays tend to have deeper colours and work better in brighter rooms. Also, the blacks on a plasma screen are usually deeper and the screen is able

to react faster. When watching a sport with fast-moving objects, like soccer, there's less blurring.

RESOLUTION AND REFRESH RATES

Digital television broadcasts in Australia are a complex beast. Let's put aside the old analogue signal because any new set you buy now will rarely, if ever, be used with the old analogue signal.

Australian digital TV is broadcast in two resolutions – standard definition and high definition. Both use the same 16:9 widescreen format so the resolution is usually only expressed in terms of the vertical dimension.

SD delivers DVD-quality broadcasts with a vertical resolution of 576 lines. Sound quality is about the same as a CD so if you're moving up to a new TV it's worth considering integrating it into your existing audio set up or factoring in some decent speakers so you get the most from your investment.

HD is a little more tricky. A full HD screen displays 1080 horizontal lines, but 720 lines is far more common and generally accepted as being HD.

It's worth knowing that, as part of the Government's program to introduce digital TV, there are quotas the TV networks must achieve with respect to the amount of HD content they broadcast. At the moment, all the networks are exceeding that quota through a mixture of upscaled lower-definition content and natively produced content.

Although LED TV sets are sometimes advertised as being different to LCDs they aren't – they just use a different light source to illuminate the display.”

If you've got a good CRT TV that doesn't bear being disposed of, a set-top box is an inexpensive way to give that TV a new lease on life.

Although HD television runs at a resolution beyond the old CRT technology, it will receive the HD signal and downscale it to your TV's capability. That way you get access to all the new stations without the expense of buying a new TV.

With the World Cup, every game will be shown live on both SBS ONE (in SD) and on SBS HD. And 25 of the matches will be broadcast in 3D.

TO 3D OR NOT TO 3D

3D is probably the biggest change to television since colour. It's supposed to make the viewing experience more real and allow us to be immersed in the entertainment. But does it deliver?

TVS FOR THE WELL-HEELED

If you want something special in your lounge room and have a generous budget then you really need to take a look at Bang & Olufsen's televisions. Rather than going with the usual 'off the shelf' range, B&O builds every TV to order, based on your needs.

The order process takes about three weeks, with the TV being assembled in Denmark. The latest panel, controllers and other components are used, which is good to know as B&O charges a premium, with an entry-level 42in unit costing around \$8000.

A B&O TV is the hub of the home entertainment system. Most TVs need an external Blu-Ray player and amplifier, but B&O builds those components into the set. That goes a long way to reducing the usual clutter. B&O's speakers are built with their own internal amplification, so those looking for

surround sound will need to factor in the right speakers.

When we examined some of the latest sets we were quite blown away with the attention to detail in the design. Looking at the back of a B&O TV reveals – nothing. On the latest Beovision 10-40 all of the ports are hidden behind an easily removed panel that secures the usual mess of cables.

One B&O remote control will control the entire entertainment system, including extra peripherals like a Foxtel iQ box and Apple TV.

To be sure, B&O's home entertainment gear isn't for everyone. But if you're serious about your TV viewing and have a luxury budget then a trip to a B&O store is in order.





ViewSonic, www.viewsonic.com.au

Pros Matte display limits glare

Cons Some images not very vibrant

RRP \$1699



VIEWSONIC N4290P

At first blush, ViewSonic's N4290p looks to be a great-value TV. With four HDMI inputs, two composite, two AV and VGA connectivity this 42in high-definition LCD TV will meet the needs of many digital lounge rooms.

Installation was straightforward. The LCD panel sits on a swivel stand and is held in place with four large screws. Both analogue and digital channels were tuned in quickly and easily.

Once the N4290p was up and running, it was easy to use with a simple, user-friendly remote control.

Unlike many of its contemporaries, the N4290p skips the glossy screen, preferring a matte finish. In our view this was a double-edged sword. We weren't troubled by annoying reflections from ambient light sources but the colours seemed flatter than with other televisions we looked at. In particular, screen tones seemed washed out.

Image quality was reasonable. On the 1080p screen, like many entry-level LCDs, solid black images looked to be more a dark grey. In most situations this wasn't annoying but it stood out in some movie scenes. We're pretty sure James Bond doesn't wear a dark-grey tuxedo.

High-definition content, such as Blu-ray movies, was very sharp. Fast-moving sequences didn't exhibit any ghosting that we could notice in our viewing of sport and movies.

There's a lot to like about the ViewSonic N4290p. There's no glare on the screen, it offers plenty of input options and the image quality is very good. The street price is often well under ViewSonic's recommended price.

LOGITECH HARMONY 700

As our loungerooms become more complex we can end up with a bunch of different remote controls. Logitech's Harmony 700, one of its flagship remote controls, reduces the clutter by controlling up to six devices.

Setup of the Harmony remotes is very straightforward. The remote ships with the Logitech Harmony Remote Software, which needs an internet connection to work. Simply create an account with Logitech, enter in the model numbers of all your devices and the software pulls the remote control codes from its database. Then connect the Harmony to the computer over USB and the remote control is programmed for you.

We tested the Harmony 700 with a variety of different devices from several manufacturers and didn't hit a model it wasn't ready for.

Rather than just duplicating the original remote control, the Harmony 700 takes an activity based approach. The screen lists activities like 'Watch TV', 'Play DVD'; or 'Listen to Music'.

With all the device information and by answering a few questions in the set-up wizard, the remote is then programmed to automatically turn on and configure your devices for specific actions. So, 'Watch DVD' can turn on the TV, set the appropriate AV input, turn on your amplifier and set the audio output and initialise the DVD player. It makes each activity a one-press affair.

The Harmony 700 comes with a charging cable so that you don't ever have to worry about the battery going flat. Also, it means that the Harmony 700 has a home so it doesn't get lost in the lounge.



Logitech, www.logitech.com

Pros Reduces clutter; easy to set up

Cons None

RRP \$299



When the 3D World Cup matches are broadcast, we'll be keen to see how they're received and whether this signals a new direction for our broadcasters."

Our eyes let us see three dimensional objects. Each eye sees an object slightly differently to the other. You can easily reproduce this effect. Look at something in front of you. Cover your left eye and, keeping your head and focus still, uncover the left eye and cover the right eye. It will look like the object has moved slightly.

3D projection and display systems use the same principle of getting each eye to see a slightly different perspective of the same object.

Let's start by looking at how 3D TV works and how it's different to the cinema. In the cinema you wear a pair of glasses with special lenses. Movies are filmed using cameras that record the same action from two, slightly different perspectives. The two images are projected onto the screen and the glasses give the illusion of extra depth.

The old red and blue glasses are used with an anaglyph 3D system. More recently, and made popular through movies like *Avatar* and *Monsters vs Aliens*, polarised lenses are used. While the two systems are different they use similar methods to achieve the 3D effect.

3D-ready TVs use LCD shutter glasses. The glasses are battery powered and communicate directly with the TV. The TV tells the glasses which eye should see the image being exhibited at the moment and rapidly opens and closes the shutters, thus creating a three-dimensional image.

The 3D TVs we're seeing today have limited viewing angles – unless you're sitting in a narrow area in front of the screen, about 120 degrees, the colours fade and the 3D doesn't work.

Although there's been plenty of buzz around 3D for the last year or so, it's still fairly new technology for the home. Also, it's worth remembering that one of the reasons that the 3D experience works well in the cinema is that the screen is huge, the sound system is impressive and the entire environment is designed to immerse you in the movie.

However, it's worth remembering that the first generation of many new technologies often has wrinkles that are soon ironed out. When the 3D World Cup matches are broadcast, we'll be keen to see how they're received and whether this signals a new direction for our broadcasters. 



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www.sennheiser.com.au/sports

Follow us: twitter.com/SennheiserAU_NZ



TiVo, www.tivo.com.au

Pros Easiest PVR ever

Cons Some noise from fan and hard drive

RRP \$899



TIVO SERIES 3

There's nothing worse than when you're watching a tight game and the phone rings or guests drop by uninvited. TiVo solves that problem by being one of the most user-friendly PVRs on the market.

Installing a TiVo is straightforward. All it needs is a connection to the TV antenna, a network connection and a link to your TV. Unfortunately, the TiVo doesn't ship with a HDMI cable – this is a pet hate of ours. All HD-ready kit should come with HDMI leads – otherwise you simply aren't getting the best out of them. The network connection can either be via Ethernet cable or by using the Wi-Fi adaptor that shipped with our review unit.

The setup process takes about half an hour, working through tuning stations, activation and downloading the EPG. Once that is done, the TiVo is ready to use.

Watching TV was dead easy and pausing shows for later viewing was straightforward. Even rewinding something we'd just watched was straightforward – great for reviewing those 'hand of God' moments during crucial World Cup matches.

The integrated EPG made it easy to search for a program and then set it for recording. The main hassles we faced was that the TV stations are unreliable and rarely run shows on the scheduled time. TiVo doesn't make it easy to adjust the padding time.

However, recording favourite shows based on words in the title or description or on the actors is easy to set up. You can also easily configure a season pass so you never miss an episode of your favourite show. Recording capacity is either 30 hours of HD content or 60 hours of SD.

There are other, more complex and feature-laden PVRs on the market. However, the TiVo is very easy to use.

SONY 55HX700

Big TVs are the new black and Sony's 55in 55HX700 is a beauty. Coupled with a decent sound system this LCD gives a real home theatre feel although the glossy screen means you'll need to take care with your lighting.

Once we'd extracted the 55HX700 from the box and popped it onto its stand, we went through the setup process so that the analogue and digital tuners picked up all the local stations. The TV has an Ethernet port and, as our LAN uses DHCP, the 55HX700 had almost instant access to the internet. "What for?" I hear you ask? So that we could grab live content from a bunch of online sources such as BlipTV, YouTube, Flickr and a host of others.

When TV was first introduced the set became a piece of furniture that was the focal point of the lounge-room. Sony is seeking to recreate that by making the TV the focal point of all home entertainment.

Picture quality was outstanding. Many LCD TVs are criticised for not creating deep blacks but we couldn't fault it. Watching various Blu-ray movies and free-to-air TV it would take a very discerning critic to fault the images. Watching HD broadcasts of fast-moving sports, this 200MHz display didn't have any trouble following the ball and we didn't spot any ghosting.

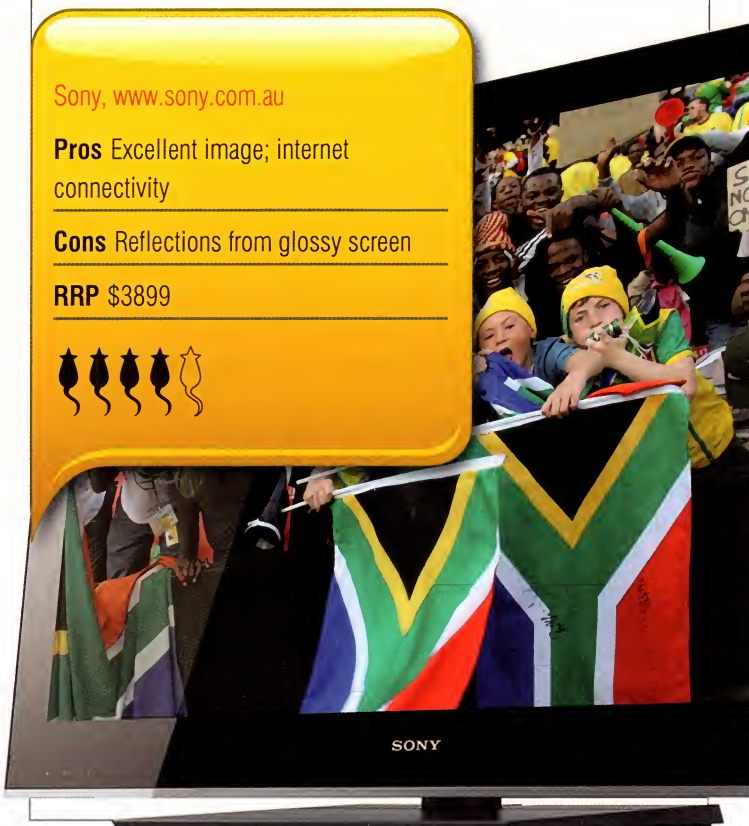
The internet connection is an intriguing feature but with new content services being offered by ISPs this is clearly the way of the future. We watched several YouTube movies, and low-resolution movies were delivered in surprisingly good quality.

Sony, www.sony.com.au

Pros Excellent image; internet connectivity

Cons Reflections from glossy screen

RRP \$3899



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MUSIC



MOVIES

MORE MALICE

By Snoop Dogg
EMI/Priority

The follow up to last year's *Malice N Wonderland* offers more of the same from the hip hop icon, which means much saying of his own name and spelling Gangster with an 'A' on the end. If Snoop's particular brand of mischief happens to be your bag, then drop whatever you are doing and go grab yourself a copy. — **TM**



HEARTS

By Artisan Guns
Capitol

The second EP from Auckland four-piece Artisan Guns continues the good work we saw with their debut release *Bird & Bone* just six months ago. With lush melodies, intriguing lyrics and a decidedly British sound that recalls Ash or, more recently, The Kooks, these six tracks are well worth a listen. The band say they "have tour plans in the pipeline for New Zealand and Australia". — **TM**



RED LIGHT FEVER

By Taylor Hawkins & the Coattail Riders
Sony Music

Taylor Hawkins has clearly been taking notes from his Foo Fighters drumstool, as the most noticeable thing about his solo project is that it sounds; in a strange way even more like the Foo Fighters than the last couple of Foo Fighters records. But his delivery is confident and energetic, and there is enough melodic rock here to tide fans over while Dave Grohl mucks around with his side projects. — **TM**



WAIT FOR ME. REMIXES!

By Moby
EMI

A remix album can be seen as a re-visit to songs rich enough in their original form to warrant further examination or a lazy cash-in from an artist who hasn't had any good ideas since. This one from Moby could go either way — while some tracks are fresh and original looks at tunes from his 2009 LP, others sounded like a re-mix in the first place and will have you wondering why he bothered. — **TM**



THE LOVELY BONES

Paramount

A suburban school girl disappears and is murdered — but despite this film being about death it offers a unique take on the notion of the afterlife. Susie Salmon watches over the living from the afterlife as she tries to guide her father and sister towards uncovering the identity of her killer. But is the vengeance worth it, or does her family need time to heal? Directed by Peter Jackson, and based on the best-selling novel by Alice Sebold. — **LP**



IT MIGHT GET LOUD

Sony Pictures

Any documentary that brings together three electric guitar legends — Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin), The Edge (U2) and Jack White (The White Stripes) — to have a chat and a jam has to be worth seeing, and *It Might Get Loud* certainly is. This is promoted as a documentary on the electric guitar, but it's really more of a potted biography of the three guitarists and a subtle look at their very different approaches to the instrument. Fantastic. — **DB**





GAMES

Reviews by Dave Bullard,
Tyler Mathes, Meghann
Myers, Liana Pappas
and James Savage

HAPPY FAMILY PLAN

Madman

This is a wonderful subtitled Japanese movie about an out-of-work Yokohama dad who takes on a seemingly impossible task in order to win a TV game show. But, more than that, this 2000 movie has now been re-released by Sydney's Japan Foundation with a second DVD containing a Japanese Language Resource Kit and expert comments on Japanese society. Great for students of the country, its culture and its language. — **DB**



TOY STORY 1 & 2

Walt Disney Studios

To celebrate this month's release of *Toy Story 3* (in 3D), Walt Disney has released *Toy Story* and *Toy Story 2* on special-edition DVDs and Blu-ray. As with all of Disney Pixar's amazing animations, these two movies, starring a host of toys (and a few people) voiced by stars such as Tom Hanks, Tim Allen and Kelsey Grammar, have lost none of their magic. A real pleasure for all ages. — **DB**



THE SETTLERS 7: PATHS TO A KINGDOM

PLATFORM: Mac PUBLISHER: TransGaming

This game sequel requires you to build towns, manage your economy and fight battles, all in real time. The cartoon-like graphics are pretty good, with an extensive landscape to play in. All in all it's a fun game for patient gamers who are able to multitask. But be warned — you need an internet connection to play. www.gametreeonline.com/ubisoft/the-settlers-7. **Price: US\$49.95 (about \$54) — DB**



ASPHALT 5 HD

PLATFORM: iPad PUBLISHER: Gameloft

Asphalt 5 has been one of the top arcade-style racing games for iPhone and iPod touch, and now fans can revel in the much larger iPad screen and the superior view of the road. You can unlock up to 33 cars and race through 12 different cities, competing against AI opponents or against friends. It's a rich experience combining beautiful graphics, smooth control and tons of replay value. **Price: \$8.99 — JS**



DEFENDER CHRONICLES — LEGEND OF THE DESERT KING

PLATFORM: iPhone/iPod touch PUBLISHER: Chillingo

The tower defence genre is one of the more popular iPhone and iPod touch game categories, and *Defender Chronicles* is one of the best with its RPG elements, great graphics and challenging strategy. Enemies travel along a set path bent on the destruction of your castle. To stop them you build guild houses to train soldiers, archers or mages, then plan your defences. **Price: \$3.99 (on sale) — JS**



RISE OF THE TRIAD: DARK WAR

PLATFORM: iPhone/iPod touch PUBLISHER: Mobila Interactive

Rise of the Triad makes a great effort to overcome the first-person shooter control issues that have plagued iPhone and iPod touch games in the past. You play the game as one of five — including a female! — agents sent to battle an evil cult leader named El Oscuro. There are a whopping four control schemes, so it's easy to find the right fit. The 3D environments are detailed and only pixellate slightly when you get really close to something. **Price: \$4.99 — MM**





EDUCATION
MARTIN LEVINS

Testing times

You could see the advent of NAPLAN and its concomitant league tables coming couldn't you?

The offices of Ms Gillard et al have seen many a recent visit from US-based educational 'leaders' and it was only a matter of time before we adopted our own version of the 'No Child Left Behind Act' (known in the states as 'No Child Left').

Together with our nascent National Curriculum are we to look forward to teaching to the test as we return to a fundamentals-driven education revolution more reminiscent of a Howard leadership in its philosophy?

The educational technology industry certainly thinks so. It has grabbed this bandwagon readily and is promoting various 'classroom response systems' (usually associated with interactive whiteboards). The halls of the educational expos that accompany conferences look more like game show studios that anything else – more on this in a later column.

There's also a recurring trend for 'classroom monitoring systems' whereby students' computer screens are viewed remotely over a network connection to check that they are 'on task'.

Let's look at one of these approaches to learning – remote monitoring.

Firstly, there's a logistical analysis that begins with an average class size of, say, 25, each of them on a computer. It would take an enormous screen on the teacher's desk to have student screens visible (a security screen can usually monitor nine or so cameras), or should we have a wall of screens that the teacher could consult to cover every student?

Perhaps we could adopt programs that allow the remote switching on of the laptop's camera so we can see what the user is doing when not in the classroom as well? (This approach backfired significantly in a Pennsylvania school district recently – see bit.ly/mglamw100601)

Does this approach remind you of anything? Anyone who has worked in a prison would instantly feel at home

that success is measured by being 'on-task' 100 percent of the time.


The comments I overheard from teachers watching a demo of this sort of stuff were inevitably: "I want them to use the web to research and need to make sure they're not on Facebook."

There's a technological determinism here that overcomes all the common sense that says, "Let's take the teachers from the front of the room so they can move among the kids."

Let's use our skills as teachers to observe body language and know, without technology, when a student is wandering off-track. Let's devise learning experiences so inviting that they will want to do them in preference to looking elsewhere. Let's use our remote monitoring powers for good, such as screen-sharing a student's work to a projector to save the fiddly connection-to-a-projector dance.

You're probably thinking Apple Remote Access here, but screen sharing is now (since Leopard) built into every Mac and usually accessed via the Share Screen button on the top right of a Finder window when connected to a shared volume.

There is an application at work here and it hides inside the /System/Library/CoreServices folder. Drag it to the Dock and you can go crazy with screen viewing, as long as you know the address of the remote machine. I find this very handy to look at servers which don't have monitors attached, or to assist other teachers on staff if they ring to get help with a problem.

If you've ever tried to give technical support over the phone you'll know how invaluable this is. 



There's a technological determinism here that overcomes all the common sense that says, 'Let's take the teachers from the front of the room so they can move among the kids.' "

in this environment: "Number 13, get off Facebook!"

The underlying philosophy of this arrangement is that the teacher is at the front of the room, everyone is doing the same thing, everyone is solely using a computer, and

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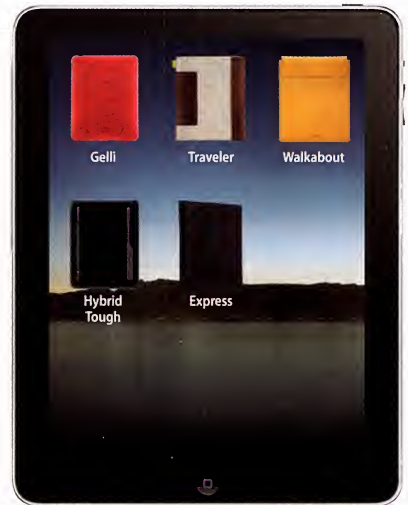


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Just got your iPad and in search of the grooviest design around? It's time to Gelli-fy your iPad!

The **Gelli** cover adds a splash of translucent color and gives your iPad case a funky design to set it apart from the rest. The Gelli acts as a skin - keeping your iPad safe with a fully protective, cutting-edge flexible thermoplastic material.

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Maybe it's time for some Tough protection!

Cars, computers, handhelds—it seems like everyone is going hybrid. What's the hook? To be hybrid is to take the best of both worlds, the strengths of two technologies combined for one powerful, game-changing solution.

The **Hybrid Tough** cases for the Apple iPad use the protective power of dual layers. A form-fitting silicone skin covers your iPad completely, absorbing each impact or hard knock making the Tough iPad case the most durable on the market. Wrapped around the skin is a hard, ABS plastic shell for complete security, adding another level of protection—and making for a firm grip.



\$62.50 RRP

The Traveler iPad Felt Folio Leather Case

For the iPad user on the go, the **Traveler** offers the best of both worlds – convenience and durability. The Traveler iPad case is a felt folio that folds out to include storage pockets for pens, business cards, whatever you may need on the go. The premium leather accents highlight the quality and utility of this iPad cover while keeping your iPad safe and secure with magnetic closures.

Features side-opening felt with leather accents, pockets for light storage and a magnetic strap to secure the iPad while in transit.

The Walkabout - iPad Leather Folio

The **Walkabout** for the iPad. Sound good? Sure, but how about adding "rich, premium, smooth, durable and leather" to that statement? Sound better? It does to us.

Keep your iPad safe without losing any style points! The Walkabout is a top-opening iPad case constructed of genuine tan leather. The top enclosure is secured by two magnets for easy access to open the folio, as needed, but strong enough to keep your iPad secured in the Walkabout cover at all times.

Features premium genuine tan leather, designed for the user that wants convenience with style and has embedded magnets in the top flap to secure the iPad while in transit.



\$44.50 RRP

The Express iPad Nylon Flip Case

The Apple iPad is sleek and sexy, so your iPad case should be too. Created out of a black ballistic nylon, the **Express** is a splash-resistant; the perfect basic for a minimalistic mindset – simply slide your iPad into this case and you're good to go!

Express iPad cases feature a side opening magnetic enclosure to keep your iPad safe and secure in transit.



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RRP: \$49.95
Webequip
Macs-4-u.com.au

↪ **Gecko Traveller.** A synthetic leather slimline sleeve for your iPad, Gecko Traveller's simple attractive lines and robust construction ensure you get an elegant case that looks as good as it protects. It's carefully crafted for a perfect 'slip-in' fit and has a premium, suede-like lining. Available in black and purple. Various Gecko Gear iPad accessories available from JB Hi-Fi and Myer. Check your local stores for details.

RRP: \$29.95
Gecko Gear Australia
www.geckogear.com.au

↓ **Gecko Swag Bag.** This snug protective sleeve is water resistant and padded with a suede soft lining to keep your iPad snug and safe. When opened, a unique 'Fold & Touch' feature provides the perfect typing angle, and retaining elastic straps keep your iPad in place and ready to use. Available in black and purple. Various Gecko Gear iPad accessories available from JB Hi-Fi and Myer. Check your local stores for details.

RRP: \$29.95
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↪ **Shure SE115m+.** Based on the Shure SE115 earphones, the SE115m+ adds an integrated remote control and microphone, making it compatible with the iPad, iPhone 3GS and 3G iPod shuffle with volume control, hands-free calling, voice recording and iPod playback controls. Delivering warm, detailed sound, you can control music playback or seamlessly switch between music and calls.

RRP: \$189
Jands
www1.jands.com.au/purchase/australian_dealers



↓ **Twelve South BookArc for iPad.** Redesigned exclusively for iPad, BookArc is a beautiful slice of heavy gauge steel that provides a perfect perch for the latest stroke of genius from Apple. BookArc for iPad uses a soft silicone, reversible insert to hold your iPad in four different positions so you can use your iPad just the way you want to.

RRP: \$79.95

Try & Byte

www.tryandbyte.com.au



↓ **Gecko Profile.** The Gecko Profile is a contoured, scratch-resistant, Makrolon polycarbonate hard case for the iPad. It has a non-slip, soft touch coating and is flexible yet strong. Includes a bonus screen guard, microfibre cloth and cleaning sachet. Available in black, frost and pink. Various Gecko Gear iPad accessories available from JB Hi-Fi and Myer. Check your local stores for details.

RRP: \$49.95

Gecko Gear Australia

www.geckogear.com.au

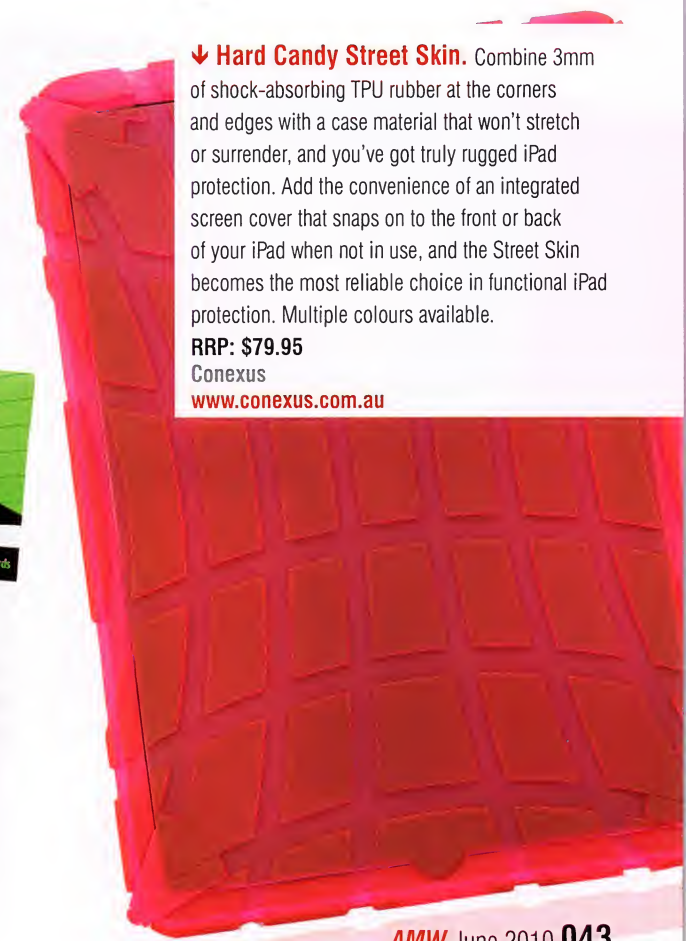


↓ **Hard Candy Street Skin.** Combine 3mm of shock-absorbing TPU rubber at the corners and edges with a case material that won't stretch or surrender, and you've got truly rugged iPad protection. Add the convenience of an integrated screen cover that snaps on to the front or back of your iPad when not in use, and the Street Skin becomes the most reliable choice in functional iPad protection. Multiple colours available.

RRP: \$79.95

Conexus

www.conexus.com.au



→ **Gecko screen guards – 2-packs.**

The Gecko guards offer optimal protection against scratches and other damage for your iPad. Available in Clear and Anti-Glare, which reduces unwanted reflections from your iPad screen. Each pack Includes two gecko guards, a microfibre cloth and a cleaning sachet. Various Gecko Gear iPad accessories available from JB Hi-Fi and Myer. Check your local stores for details.

RRP: Anti-glare, \$29.95; Clear, \$19.95

Gecko Gear Australia

www.geckogear.com.au



➤ **STM jacket.** Australia-based STM Bags' newest iPad carrying solution – the jacket – not only protects your shiny new device from scratches and abuse, but also has a nifty, diagonal slider pocket that cradles your iPhone or iPod in brushed soft-tech fabric. A front zippered pocket stows your cords, keys and other sundries, and there's an adjustable and removable shoulder strap included.

RRP: \$49.95

STM

www.stmbags.com



➔ iAccessories Docking Station

Stand. This handy product allows you to sync and charge the iPad with your Mac while it holds your iPad in a standing position. It has a single USB connection that runs from the Docking Station to your Mac, so you don't have to fiddle with tangled wires and electric connections.

RRP: \$49

iAccessories

iaccessories.com.au



➤ **BodyGuardz.** These are almost-invisible, scratch-resistant films that can cover the screen or the entire body of your iPad. This means that your iPad will retain its original look without the need for a case. BodyGuardz have won a number of awards for the iPhone including "Product of the Year" and, more recently, "Mobile Accessory of the Year".

RRP: \$39.95 (screen only); \$49.95 (full body)

Dynamic Red

www.bodyguardz.com.au



➤ **Gecko Glove.** This is a super-tough, super-cool silicone case for scratch and bump protection of your iPad. Features a unique gecko grip for a comfortable feel and traction for your iPad on any surface. Available in black, frost and pink. Various Gecko Gear iPad accessories available from JB Hi-Fi and Myer. Check your local stores for details.

RRP: \$29.95

Gecko Gear Australia

www.geckogear.com.au

↓ **Jam Bags iPad Sleeve.** Protect your iPad with a Jam Bags sleeve and stand out from the crowd. Available in a range of photographic and digitally generated designs, in a simple slip and zip style sleeve. Our sleeves stand out from the crowd due to the unique printing method, providing full colour graphics with the added moisture and shock protection from wetsuit-grade neoprene.

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www.jambags.com.au



➔ **Incipio feather.** Incipio's best-selling case is now available – and in five colours – for your Apple iPad! Less than 1mm thin, feather is ideal for the iPad user seeking inconspicuous, first-class protection. Merging style with functionality, feather is made of an ultra-light, ultra-strong polymer for light-as-a-feather, form-fitting and durable protection without the added bulk. Available in Black, Magenta, Purple and Frost.

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Newer Technology

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← **Tucano Soft Skin.** Be the envy of all iPad owners with the funky Tucano Soft Skin sleeve. This light, casual sleeve made from durable fabric offers total protection for your iPad with Tucano's innovative anti-slip system. With a secure Velcro-fastened top flap, you have quick and easy access to your iPad and, with the convenient rear pocket, your accessories won't be too far away. Available in black and white.

RRP: \$39.95

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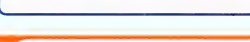
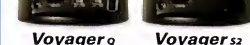
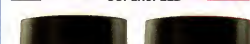
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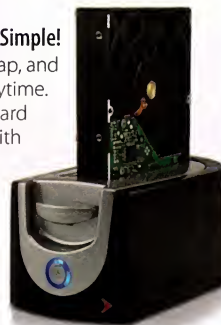
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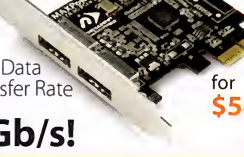
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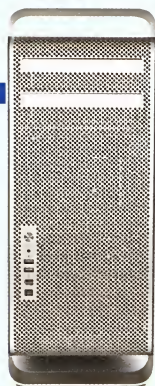
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Memory for the Quad-Core March/2009 'Nehalem' models

6GB Matched Set (2GB Modules x 3)	16GB Matched Set (4GB Modules x 4)	24GB Matched Set (8GB Modules x 3)	32GB Matched Set (8GB Modules x 4)
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Memory for the 8-Core March/2009 'Nehalem' models

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SWITCHER SENSEI
DAVID BRAUE

Opening the door to Windows

If you bought a Mac recently, you were no doubt reassured by a salesperson or trusted advisor telling you that you can always install Windows on your Mac if you need your old applications or desktop. Looking at the Mac desktop, however, it may not be immediately obvious how to do this. Here's how to make it happen.

The first thing you'll need is a copy of Parallels Desktop, VMWare Fusion (commercial solutions available as 30-day free trials), or Sun's free VirtualBox (www.virtualbox.org).

Our base install of Windows 7 consumes around 8GB of disk space, but commercial applications, swap files, personal documents and so on can push it into the tens of gigabytes."

These applications let your Mac run 'virtual machines' (VMs) – large files that contain all the information that would normally live on your Windows machine's hard drive.

You'll also need a copy of Windows 7 (if you're doing a fresh install) or a tool to 'scrape' an image of your existing Windows machine. VMWare Converter (www.vmware.com/products/converter) and Parallels Transporter (included in Parallels Desktop Switch to Mac Edition) both offer this capability. The free Converter produces a VM file that can be loaded into Fusion and run, or converted into Parallels format by Parallels.

In this example, we'll install a fresh copy of Windows in Parallels 5 (the process is quite similar using Fusion 4 and VirtualBox).

Start Parallels, then click New Windows installation. Insert your Windows 7 disc, then click through to enter your Windows 7 serial number (which will be automatically registered) and to the 'Specify the virtual machine name and location' screen.

Give your virtual machine a name, tell Parallels if you want to change its location, and choose your Sharing level.

This controls how easily Windows can access files on your Mac, and vice versa. If you're concerned about security – remember to install

Windows 7 antivirus software even basic protection like that at free.avg.com – consider restricting your VM to documents in your Home folder.

Redirecting Windows' My Documents and other folders to their Mac equivalents creates a more seamless experience but leaves your Mac documents at Windows' mercy.


Click through, and Windows 7 will start to install; in our tests, installation took around 15 minutes, as it would on a normal Windows machine.

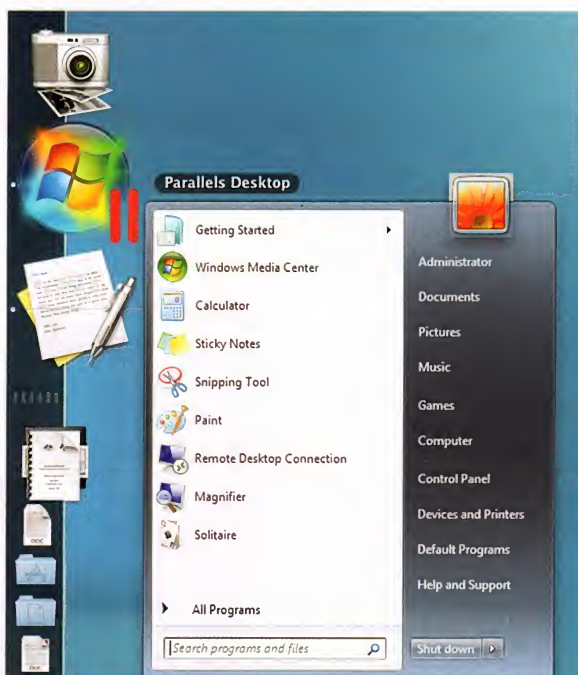
There you have it: a few clicks, and Windows is up and running. Windows applications will show up on your Dock; if you use a specific application frequently, you can right-click on them in the Dock, then choose Options > Keep in Dock to launch it with a single click, in its own window on your Mac OS X desktop.

Virtual machine files are large and live in Mac OS X's Documents > Virtual Machines folder. Our base install of Windows 7 consumes around 8GB of disk space, but commercial applications, swap files, personal documents and so on can push it into the tens of gigabytes.

No discussion of Windows on Macs would be complete without mentioning Apple's Boot Camp application (Applications > Utilities > Boot Camp Assistant).

Boot Camp takes a different approach by reserving a 'partition' – a chunk of your hard drive – to run Windows. You can't run Mac OS X and Windows simultaneously using Boot Camp, but have to reboot to switch between them.

Boot Camp is popular with Windows gamers who want maximum performance, but casual switchers who just want a safety net will find the above options easiest. 



Iomega offers a wide range of Professional storage solutions



eGo BlackBelt Portable Series

Compact bus powered 2.5" study enclosure for people that want to take their data on the road in a small case. Case covered with a rubber belt for protection from drops up to 84" off the floor!

- 320GB USB2.0 @ \$139
- 500GB USB2.0 @ \$189
- 1000GB USB2.0 @ \$349



eGo Portable Series Mac Edition

Great Steel design, take files anywhere with the eGo Portable hard drive Mac Edition. Drop Guard is included to protect your drive from drops up to 51" - perfect for travel requirements. These bus powered 2.5" drives offer triple interface versatility.



They offer Firewire 800, Firewire 400 and USB 2.0 connectivity. Compatible with both Mac and Windows.

- 500GB @ \$195



UltraMax Hard Drives

The Iomega UltraMax family of 3.5" desktop hard drives nicely complement the Mac Pro design with a sleek aluminium enclosure. They offer eSATA Firewire 800/400 and USB 2.0.

- 1T: eSATA, FW400/800, USB @ \$260
- 2T: eSATA, FW400/800, USB @ \$420



UltraMax Plus Hard Drives

Iomega UltraMax Plus Desktop 3.5" hard drives add secure, high performance, high capacity storage to your computer system and include RAID 0, 1, and JBOD features. Includes local or online backup software.

- 2T: eSATA, FW400/800, USB @ \$420



Network Storage

Iomega StorCenter ix4-200d NAS Server offers content sharing with advanced security and data protection in an easy-to-use product ideal for small offices, remote or distributed businesses. Supports RAID 5 and RAID 10 and has dual Gig Ethernet connectivity.

- 2T - 2 x GbE, USB2.0 @ \$849
- 4T - 2 x GbE, USB2.0 @ \$1,095
- 8T - 2 x GbE, USB2.0 @ \$2,150

powermedia

TV WHEREVER YOU ARE

Elgato makes streaming super-easy.

TV tuners enhance any Mac, but the built-in antennae are often all but useless with current broadcasts – so you have to put your system near an antenna point. Which usually means bringing your Mac into the lounge room, defeating the point.

Elgato solves this problem with EyeTV Netstream DTT, a superb device that lives next to your TV and broadcasts high-definition television streams across your fixed or wireless home network. Separating the dual HDTV tuners from your Mac means the tiny device can be plugged into any antenna point, then used to watch and record TV simultaneously on any two networked Mac or Windows systems, anywhere in the house.

Design. The Netstream packs dual HDTV tuners into an unobtrusive silver box half the size of a DVD case. It has just one status LED in front, and antenna-in, power and Ethernet plugs at the back. That's it.

Installation. We had the Netstream working within five minutes of taking it out of the box; most of that time was spent stepping through the EyeTV software's installation, which instantly recognised and set up the unit thanks to its use of Apple's Bonjour service discovery protocol.

We entered our IceTV electronic program guide credentials, let the software scan for available TV channels and we were ready to go.

Operation. Netstream's two HDTV tuners are allocated to connected computers on a first-come first-served basis, although a scheduled recording takes precedence.



Elgato EyeTV Netstream DTT

Elgato, www.elgato.com

Pros Great video quality; very flexible; dual HDTV tuners; allows TV watching without antennae; excellent EyeTV software; seamless iPhone streaming and library access.

Cons Reduced performance over lower-bandwidth networks or in areas of wireless interference.

RRP \$399



Elgato has delivered a superb dual-HD tuner solution that turns digital TV into a service that can be easily used anywhere in the house."

The tuners can be operated independently: you can watch and/or record two channels on one computer, or watch or record one channel on each of two computers. Forget buying that standalone TV and PVR: combined with your existing TV, you can record two shows and watch a third at once.

Because it uses Elgato's well-polished EyeTV software, Netstream provides a robust feature set: TV pause/chase play, scheduled recording, onscreen programming, recording buffers, and more.

New recordings can be automatically transcoded into iPhone resolution and low-res 'cellular' versions, and recorded videos can be shared between every computer running EyeTV.

Elgato bundles TerraTec Home Cinema software for Windows users.

Performance. The quality of Netstream video was excellent via

both Ethernet and Wi-Fi networks; on our test 27in i7 iMac, both HD and SD images were sharp and smooth even when running in a window while doing other tasks.

The process can be CPU-intensive, depending on what you're watching: EyeTV software consumed around 14 percent of the CPU cycles on our test iMac, with the Elgato MPEG-2 Decoder consuming an additional 13 percent on the One HD channel, and just 3 percent for Ten's SD signal.

On the test MacBook, EyeTV handled decoding without the separate decoder, consuming 54 percent CPU on One HD and 34 percent on the SD Ten channel.

Going mobile. Netstream worked perfectly with the \$5.99 EyeTV iPhone app, which we used to schedule recordings, and to stream recorded videos and live video straight from Netstream to our iPhone 3GS.

Quality when streamed on the home network over Wi-Fi was excellent. Using the 3G network, iPhone-quality video over 3G initially ran OK in a five-bar coverage area, but after about 30 seconds buffering delays forced the software to revert to the lower-quality 'cellular' version, which streamed fine.

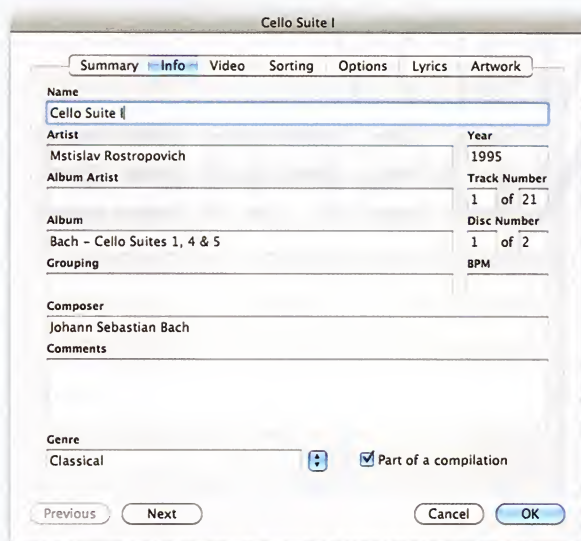
Live TV from Netstream also reverted to lower quality, and ran smoothly on the iPhone for extended periods. Consumption of 3G bandwidth was modest: five minutes of *The Nanny* on channel 99 consumed just 5.6MB of 3G data.

Finding an antenna. If you don't have a fixed network, or a network port near your antenna point, don't despair. To simulate this scenario, we plugged the Netstream unit into a 802.11n-compatible Belkin Double N+ Wireless Router.

Ignoring the fixed network completely, the EyeTV software located the Netstream unit over the wireless network and began streaming the TV signal again (another option would be one of the numerous powerline networking solutions). This option requires purchase of a wireless router, of course, but it's still cheaper than buying a second TV and PVR.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Mac TV tuner veteran Elgato has delivered a superb dual-HD tuner solution that turns digital TV into a service that can be easily used anywhere in the house. It costs far less than a separate TV and PVR and – with capabilities like recording, format shifting, content sharing, streaming iPhone access and more – is an appealing alternative. Highly recommended. 

— DAVID BRAUE



left. **iTunes store tags.** You can search the iTunes Store to find accurate tag information for albums you've ripped yourself.

MANAGING THE CLASSICS

Kirk McEihear gives two tips for dealing with iTunes and classical music.

I am a fan of classical music. Over the years, I've struggled with efficiently organising what is now a 50,000-track iTunes library. In the process, I've come up with a few tips that you may find handy for dealing with classical music – and, in some cases, other types of music as well.


Get FLAC files into iTunes. The days of 128-kbps music files from download sites is becoming a distant memory. As time has passed, not only have bit rates increased (and DRM faded away), but sites selling music in lossless audio format – especially for classical music – are becoming increasingly common. Most of the sites that offer music in lossless formats sell FLAC files, however, which iTunes does not support (iTunes instead supports AIFF, WAV, and Apple Lossless files).

It's not that hard to get FLAC files into iTunes, though it does involve converting the files. Luckily, you can do so with several different apps, and without losing any quality in the process. Grab a copy of the free X Lossless Decoder (aka XLD), open its preferences, click the General icon and choose Apple Lossless from the Output Format pop-up menu.

Now pick where you want XLD to save the files it converts (you can even have it add them to your iTunes library or to a specific playlist), and close the Preferences window. Next, just drag the FLAC files you want to convert onto XLD's Dock icon (you can even drag a folder). As a bonus, the process retains any metadata with which your FLAC files were tagged.

Rip CDs accurately. Though iTunes can rip CDs losslessly, you can instead use XLD and take advantage of certain features the program offers to make more-accurate rips than iTunes does.

XLD checks with the AccurateRip database (www.accuraterip.com) and rips CDs more carefully than iTunes. These features cause XLD to rip more slowly than iTunes, in most cases, but if you want a really accurate rip, these features will ensure that your files sound just like the original CDs.

Note that although XLD can look up and add a CD's metadata information when you rip, it uses a different database (freedb.org) than the Gracenote database (www.gracenote.com) that iTunes uses. That means the tags might not be as good as those you'd get if you ripped with iTunes. 



HANDY HANDSFREE

Sony offers great iPod/iPhone connectivity.

Each year, more and more new cars include built-in connection options for iPods, iPhones and Bluetooth devices. But if you're not in the market for a new car, you can still get such connectivity via an aftermarket upgrade.

Sony's MEX-BT5750U, a member of the company's Xplod line of headunits, is a solid option that lets you connect both iPods and iPhones.

The MEX-BT5750U is a single-DIN (with a rectangular rather than square facade) CD-playing unit with a removable faceplate. It has an AM/FM radio tuner with 18 FM and 12 AM presets, accessible via face-mounted controls or remote.

A front-facing USB slot on the head unit lets you connect just about any USB-compatible MP3 player, including – via a USB dock-connector cable – any iPhone, iPod nano, classic or touch for both playback and charging. The connected device's contents are displayed on the screen. There's also a 3.5mm aux jack.

One minor complaint here is that the USB port is in plain sight. This means that when your iPod is connected, there's a big cable dangling out of the dashboard. Compare this to the Pioneer unit I have installed in my other car, which has a USB port on the back and a cable running into the cubbyhole.

Navigating using the headunit was clumsy. You can use a 'Jump' feature to automatically skip forward a specific number of songs on a playlist, but this doesn't make the navigation of large lists any easier. It needs some sort of fast scrolling feature.

Thankfully, the MEX-BT5750U offers a 'Passenger control' setting,

which lets you use the iPod's own controls and screen. This Passenger mode is supported by most iPods except the original iPod (with video) and the first-generation iPod nano.

If you have a 2G iPod touch or an iPhone running iPhone OS 3, you also have the option of streaming audio wirelessly over Bluetooth. That's right – you can have a completely wireless sound system in your car.

Once paired, you can also use the MEX-BT5750U as a Bluetooth speakerphone for your iPhone. The headunit has its own built-in microphone, or you can clip an external one to your dashboard or visor. The Sony provides 52W of power to four speakers, which should be quite an upgrade from most older stereos.

The MEX-BT5750U's blue display tends to wash out in direct sunlight, so if you're in a ragtop or use your sunroof, this head unit may not be the best option for you. This makes it difficult to see what's on the screen, whether that's the current frequency,

Sony Xplod MEX-BT5750U

Sony, www.sony.com.au

Pros Streams audio from iPhone and iPod touch wirelessly over Bluetooth; supports iPhone phonebook and dialling; charges and plays content from iPods

Cons Bad display; awkwardly placed USB connector; clumsy list navigation

RRP \$769



track or artist information or, most important, the ID of an incoming caller.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Thanks to the awkward placement of the USB connector, the clumsy list navigation, and the lousy display, the MEX-BT5750U isn't a top-rater. But Sony deserves credit for the excellent iPod connectivity and (for iPhone and second-generation iPod touch) Bluetooth integration.

— PETER COHEN

The MEX-BT5750U offers a 'Passenger control' setting, which lets you use the iPod's own controls and screen."



Studio Sound Quality



A-  **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
iLounge.com | All Things iPod

"...the best overall iPod and iPhone audio system currently available at its price point"
iLounge

"Looks sleek, sounds sweet"
New York Magazine

"The amount of added detail is astounding"
Playboy

iHome
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The iHome® Studio Series is the first ever home audio system to feature the Bongiovi Acoustics Digital Power Station. This **patented technology**, developed by music industry professionals, constantly scans your audio to **restore harmonics and clarity**, typically lost to compression.

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The iHome Studio Series. Hear music as it was meant to sound.

www.ihomeaudio.com/iP1

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EXPOSING A HIDDEN WORLD

JAY TOWN goes for a full camera conversion to shoot the weird world of infrared light.

Digital cameras and our eyes both require light to allow them to work. The spectrum of light stretches from ultraviolet light through to 'wide band infrared' light, and in the middle is a band of light called (funnily enough) 'visible'. This is the part that we can see.

Digital cameras, however, can see it all, which is not a good thing as these other bands of light would render scenes unrealistic to us (because we cannot see this extraneous light). So the manufacturers place a 'ban pass' filter between the sensor and the lens to block out the unwanted light.

For photographers, one band of the spectrum that has a lot of appeal is the infrared band. Now before you start thinking about night photography and thermal imaging, infrared photography only works with an infrared light source, most notably the sun.

Some digital cameras will still see a small amount of infrared light (you can test this by photographing your TV's remote while in use and see if the infrared light is recorded), and you can just place an infrared pass filter (like a Wratten 87) over the lens. This opaque filter will only allow infrared light to pass through.

For a much better result, I sent my old Nikon 5400 to Melbourne's Camera Clinic, where they dismantled the camera, removed the ban pass filter, adjusted the exposure meter to the infrared wavelength and adjusted the focus for the new wavelength.

They can, during the process, mount an infrared pass filter in front of the sensor, but I opted for the external filter so that I could also use the camera to record UV light.

Because the filter is opaque to the human eye, it is best to use a camera that has live view. That way you are seeing things in infrared, live on the LCD. If it doesn't have live view, then you will have to set the camera up on a tripod, then place the filter over the lens and take the



Conversions done by the Camera Clinic in Collingwood, Melbourne.

www.cameraclinic.com.au/spectral-modifications.html

RRP Compact \$290; SLR \$495; full-frame SLR \$595

picture, then review it to see how the infrared looks.


Infrared works in both colour and black and white, although the results are more pronounced in the latter. Like using B&W film and a red filter, clouds stand out against a jet-black sky, but vegetation appears as white. Trees and grass look like they are covered in snow, while water and sky appear black. People just look weird and ghost-like, with black eyes. Some scenes almost look like they were taken at night, which further adds to the night-time myth.

In film days, infrared photography required the camera to be loaded in total darkness, then you had to use a tripod, take the photo with no idea what you were getting until after processing, and unload in darkness. After all that, you ended up with an image with almost unacceptable grain and a fairly crappy look to it.

Now, with digital, the ease of shooting infrared is incredible. Through the LCD, you can see exactly how things look in this strange band of light. You'll look at a boring scene like the local park, and then view it on the LCD and you will not believe what you are seeing.

For best results, your subject should be in bright sun, as shadow areas come out as grey and not as spectacular. To further enhance the illusion that the shots were taken at night, you can shoot in early morning or late afternoon to get long shadows creeping across the ground.

The only problem with having your camera permanently dedicated to infrared is that you can no longer use it as an ordinary camera. For this reason, many photographers are converting their old digital cameras, although the Camera Clinic has also converted brand-new D3X Nikons for very dedicated people.

The good news is that, because digital cameras are superseded so regularly, there are a lot of good cameras not being used that are perfect for this. If you don't have one hanging around, you can buy a second-hand camera that is only a couple of years old for a very reasonable amount, and then get the surgery done on it, and you're away, literally seeing and shooting things you have never seen before. 

— Jay Town is a photographer on Melbourne's *Herald Sun*.

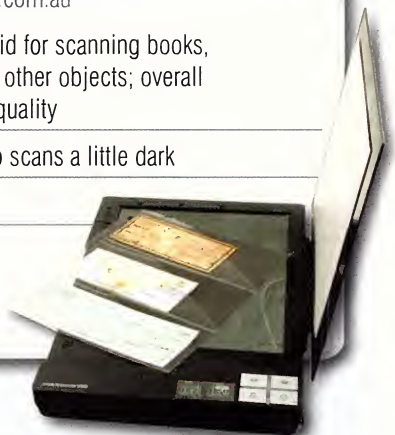
Epson Perfection V30

Epson, www.epson.com.au

Pros 180-degree lid for scanning books, photo albums, and other objects; overall impressive image quality

Cons Colour photo scans a little dark

RRP \$159



Well-balanced scanner

Epson's Perfection V30 is an inexpensive flatbed scanner that boasts an optical resolution of 4800 dpi and 48-bit colours. It isn't the fastest scanner we've seen (nor does it produce the best image quality), but the V30 offers a terrific balance of quality, speed and value.

The V30 is just 4cm high and weighs 2.2kg. It connects to your Mac via USB 2.0 and requires an external power supply. It has four buttons that let you scan to file, copy (scan to printer), scan to email and scan to PDF from the unit itself, rather than through software you run on your Mac. You can use the included Epson Scan software, or scan directly into Snow Leopard's Preview or Image Capture applications.

In terms of speed, the V30 was zippy performer. A 600 dpi, 48-bit scan of our standard colour photo took just 40 seconds. A 4 x 6in crop of that photo at 1200 dpi and 48-bit colour depth took 1 minute and 19 seconds. A 1200 dpi, 16-bit greyscale scan of our resolution test chart, took 2 minutes and 12 seconds. We've seen scanners that were faster, but the V30's times were still impressive.

Scan quality was also impressive. The resolution test chart scan earned a Very Good rating for its ability to capture fine lines and details. The V30 earned a Good rating for its colour photo scans, which were a little dark and would require a bit of tweaking to achieve a high-quality print.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. With its high resolution, high-bit scanning capabilities, its overall impressive scan quality, and affordable price, the Perfection V30 is a good fit for those looking for a capable, simple-to-use scanner. 📷

— JAMES GALBRAITH

A winner for beginners

Entry-level Pentax SLR is feature-packed

Pentax's K-x is a feature-packed alternative to Nikon and Canon's entry-level SLRs.

Offering a conventional SLR design and layout, the 12.4-megapixel K-x won't baffle anyone trading up from a compact camera – point-and-shoot auto picture mode is the most prominent setting among the 14 options on its top-mounted mode dial. The camera includes a standard 18-55mm zoom.

The K-x feels lightweight and plastic, though not in a bad way. With a decent, full-sized grip, its sturdiness is thanks to four AA batteries inserted into the base of the grip, plus a stainless steel inner frame. Pentax claims that rechargeable batteries will give enough power for up to 1900 images; with normal batteries it's a less impressive 200 shots.

Click the power switch encircling the K-x's shutter release button and you're up and shooting instantly. The rear LCD displays essential information in a clear, colourful format, and a cool blue light illuminates the top plate. A dedicated Live View button makes switching between the optical viewfinder and rear LCD to compose shots easy.

More unusually at this level, you can boost the K-x's light sensitivity settings to an equivalent ISO 12800

for flash-free photography in near darkness – a setting usually only found on semi-professional SLRs. Add HD video recording (at 1280 x 720 pixels, 24 fps) and in-body stabilisation from Pentax's own sensor-shifting Shake Reduction mechanism, and the K-x is a winning, affordable all-in-one device.

Pentax offers a range of digital effects: toy camera, high contrast, soft, starburst, retro, extract colour, fish-eye, and a custom setting. Image-wise, even exposures are the norm. Colours are a little cool but realistically so with the camera left on its default settings.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The K-x is a beginner-friendly SLR featuring most of the latest must-haves (and a very good choice for anyone wanting video too) but the lack of a rechargeable battery is a pain. The camera is available in black, white, red and navy blue. 📷

— GAVIN STOKER

Pentax K-x

Pentax, www.pentax.com.au

Pros User-friendly yet full-featured; ISO expandable to ISO 12800; 1280 x 720 HD video

Cons No rechargeable battery; plastic feel and basic control layout; no HDMI-out

RRP From \$649.95 (with DA L 18-55mm lens)



Pure Performance for Mac



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- Compatibility with Apple® Time Machine®
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Nextbyte
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Streetwise
www.streetwise.com.au
Phone: 03 9818 2100

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SOFTWARE
KEITH WHITE

Mind how you think

This month we're taking a look at two productivity packages. Both are fully-featured so what follows is only a general introduction. If you're interested in finding out more I suggest you download trial versions and use the video tutorials, support documents and user forums to see whether either package might suit your purposes.



MINDJET MINDMANAGER 8 FOR MAC - \$249

What is it? A visual project management tool to organise and streamline often complex processes using conventional mind mapping symbols. MindManager is designed for active collaboration and information sharing and integrates seamlessly with iChat, iCal, Address Book, iWork suite and Microsoft Office.

Who is it for? Organisations and those looking for a tool to improve project planning and information management. MindManager brings together all relevant project information, data and documents into a single map.

How does it work? Select a blank map or one of 16 templates. These mirror the range of projects MindManager can handle, from basic decision-making flowcharts and project planning to event planners, travel planning and to-do lists.

The Project Planner, for example, provides five topics for you – Overview, Schedule, Status, Budget and Resources – with three common sub-topics attached to each.

If you're starting from scratch, a blank canvas with a single central topic appears. Type in the project title and you're away. Add topics and subtopics from a simple menu and drag them round the page into the order you want.

Add new subtopics to existing subtopics to create deeper levels. Drag items freely to new positions. Create a floating topic for an unrelated but interesting idea or use a callout to provide extra information.

As the project grows, zoom in to the detail or zoom out for a wider perspective. Add a hyperlink to any item in the map to link to a URL, an email address or an external file. Use the Boundaries or Relationship tool to provide visual links between elements in your map.

You can share these maps via iChat or as an email attachment.

The wrap. MindManager is relatively easy to use if you need to bring clarity and focus into your project planning. Buy it from mindjet.com.

DEVONTHINK PRO OFFICE 2.0 - US\$149.95 (about \$162)

What is it? A personal information management tool. DEVONthink Pro Office 2.0 stores, analyses, organises, and archives documents using Artificial Intelligence (AI).



Who is it for? Mainly those who need to collect and manage large amounts of data, often in different formats.

How does it work? Begin by creating an empty database and importing documents of any common type.

Some of the things you can use it for: Analysing text documents to find related material, archiving emails or print documents, cataloguing disk collections, photos or MP3 collections, collecting text snippets, managing your bookmarks, reading and storing newsfeeds and taking notes.

A transparent widget lurks on your desktop even when the program is not open to pop any new data or notes into. With an appropriate scanner you can import documents as fully searchable PDF files to your database.

DEVONthink is not merely a passive organisation tool. You can create fully featured documents in the program itself. The interface is fully customisable.

The wrap. Cheaper versions with fewer features are also available. Some learning curve is involved. Buy it from www.devon-technologies.com.

Less Taxing

It does seem fitting that the two words tax and taxing are so closely related. Most people would rather stick pins in their eyes than sit down and do their tax.

Cue AccountEdge, MYOB's affordable, easy to use accounting solution for Mac OS X. AccountEdge organises your accounts in no time, quickly calculates your GST and BAS, reports on sales and profits, tracks your inventory and manages your payroll! Transforming payday and tax time into nothing more than a mild inconvenience.

MYOB supports over a million businesses. Let us support yours.

Call **1300 555 151**, visit myob.com.au/mac or talk to your MYOB Professional Partner. Available in all leading Mac software retailers.



Making
business life
easier

Liquid Digital reader tip:



SCAN SOLUTION

I read with interest your review of the HP ScanJet G3110 flatbed scanner, and its criticisms of the HP software and its slow speed (April 2010). Several years ago I bought the 'high end' HP

ScanJet 4890. The bundled HP Mac software was slow, clunky and bug-ridden. Recently I was about to consign it to the junkyard but I came across the superb VueScan generic scanner driver software (www.hamrick.com) which gave it a new lease of life. This software supports 'over 1200 scanners' and has been downloaded 7 million times. Versions are available for US\$39.95 and US\$79.95 (about \$43 and \$86), and a free trial version is offered. VueScan was a delight to use; fast, versatile and very user-friendly. Why can't HP write software like this?

James Goding

Each month, Liquid Digital gives an aGent V5 webcam valued at \$119.95 to the *Australian Macworld* reader who submits (via email or the *Australian Macworld* website) the best and most useful tip. Preference will be given to undocumented tips but it is not an exclusive condition.

The sleek, sophisticated aGent V5 webcam from Liquid Digital is compatible with all Macs (OS 10.4+) and is the perfect choice for the design-savvy Mac user. The latest V5 model features full-HD 1920 x 1080 2-megapixel quality. With a five-layer German quality glass lens, an ultra-light, low-light sensor and an enhanced digital in-built mic, the V5 is a great choice for flexible, stylish web image and video applications. In the box is the polished-steel-cased aGent V5 webcam with MacBook and iMac attachment clips, USB 2.0 and 1.1 adaptor, microfibre travel case and driver disc.

Email your tip with the subject header 'Help reader tip', including your full name, address and phone number, to macworldeditor@niche.com.au or make a contribution in the Help section of www.macworld.com.au/forums. All reader tips offered online or via mail/email become the sole property of Niche Media.



above. **Disable Caps Lock.** If you're plagued by double-caps caused by misuse of the Caps Lock key, disable it in the Keyboard system preference.

DOUBLE-CAP BLUES

? I am a LOousy typist. I am FOREver hitting double-Caps when I type in MMail. Microsoft Word has an autocorrect function that SEems to work just fine. I can't find this kind of option in Mail. Is there anything built into the Mac OS that can help me?

Jim (Gil) Gillivan

Regrettably, no. Snow Leopard (Mac OS X 10.6) includes a Text Substitution feature (found in the Text tab of the Language & Text system preference) that can help ensure that, when referring to yourself, you type 'I' rather than 'i', but it can't identify and correct double-caps.

However, Rainmaker Research's Spell Catcher X (www.rainmakerinc.com) can. Available in lite (\$34) and full (\$46) versions, Spell Catcher X includes an interactive component that can automatically fix doubled capital letters.

I understand that paying \$34 or \$46 for this one feature is a lot. Thankfully, Spell Catcher X can also automatically 'smarten' quotes and punctuation, turn consecutive hyphens into em dashes, capitalise

proper names, capitalise a sentence's first word, prevent double-spaces, and convert fractions from something like 4/5 to a more petite version.

Additionally, it includes an autocomplete feature (type a shortcut and that shortcut is expanded to 'boilerplate text' you've saved), key-logging, a spelling checker more powerful than that offered in OS X, a thesaurus, and support for multiple languages. And you can configure Spell Catcher X so that each application uses its own set of these features – Mail will correct double-caps but not convert fractions, for example.

If these features don't tempt you and this is the only typing mistake you ever make, I have other suggestions. You could slow down when typing—too-leet fingers may cause you to not let go of the Shift key in time. Or try a different keyboard, because the one you're currently using may be too quick on the draw for your typing style.

If the problem stems from your accidentally hitting the Caps Lock key, disable it by choosing the Keyboard (in Snow Leopard) or Keyboard & Mouse (in Leopard) system preference, selecting the Keyboard tab, clicking the Modifier Keys button, and, in the sheet that appears, choosing No Action from the pop-up menu that appears next

to the Caps Lock entry. From now on, leaning on the Caps Lock key will have no effect on your Mac.

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN

NAB NO-GO

? I am running Mac OSX 10.4.1 on my Mac and have been happily using Safari for some years now as my default browser. On the odd occasion that a website is not behaving properly I use Firefox. Recently my bank, NAB, has been rejecting my logging on to my bank account with the following message:

'Login Error – Make sure you have entered the correct NAB ID and Password.' But Firefox quite happily lets me log in to my bank account. My iPhone works perfectly well too. What gives?

Kent Smith

In about February NAB added a feature called Extended Validation, this now blocks all Browsers that don't include Phishing Filters built in. My assumption is the version of Safari you are using is NOT the current version 4.0.5. If you upgrade to this version plus install the latest Tiger security update, your problem should be a thing of the past.

— TLCAUS

AMW Forum member TLCAUS wins an Australian Macworld mug for this answer. Go to www.macworld.com.au/forums for more tips and help.



INCOMPATIBLE EXTENSIONS

? An error message shows every time I start my MacBook Pro – 'System Extension Cannot Be Used', followed by the name of a file. What does this mean?

Marc Manassian

You'll see these kinds of errors when an incompatible system extension is installed on your Mac. These errors are commonly seen when you first update to Snow Leopard after migrating from an older version of the Mac OS. When you boot your Mac, Snow Leopard checks its naughty-or-nice list, finds those incompatible extensions, refuses to load them, and then tells you that it's done so.

The message details exactly what you need to do if you don't want to see these warnings – update the applications from whence these bits of incompatible business sprang.

If no updated versions exist, you can try reinstalling the applications. It's possible that during the OS upgrade something went awry so that extensions that should be kosher aren't (permissions issues, for example).

If reinstalling them does not work, contact the application developers and ask when updates might be available. At this point, feel free to rummage around in the /System/Library/Extensions folder at the root level of your Mac's startup drive and chuck out the offending files.

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN

MISSING APPLE TV

? My Apple TV doesn't show up under the Devices heading in iTunes' sidebar. Any suggestions?

Mark LeSage

I can tell you for certain that growling at it doesn't work (and yes, I've tried). Try each of these steps in order until one works:

1. Unplug the Apple TV and then plug it back in to reboot it. This solves the vast majority of Apple TV problems.



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STM query of the month:

HTML IN TEXTEDIT

I got a project from school to design a web site using HTML codes on Snow Leopard. Now, I know to use TextEdit, but when I type it up and save as a HTML like this:

```
<HTML>
<body>
TEST TEST TEST
</body>
</HTML>
```

and open it in Safari or Firefox it doesn't read the codes – but if I try on Windows with Notepad using the same test and save as HTML and open in Internet Explorer, it will read it! Is there anything I'm doing wrong?

AppleFan'08,
via Australian Macworld Forums

Forum member aeroTreacle replies: TextEdit has the faculty of both editing HTML (or RTF) code and displaying it the way a browser (or word processor) would. But it's a simple program that does not show both versions at the same time, and does not have a slick and polished way of doing this.

It is controlled in Preferences. You'll see TextEdit has two sets of preferences, one for 'New Document' and one for 'Open and Save'. In the former, select 'Plain text' instead of 'Rich text'. In the latter, turn on 'Ignore rich text commands in HTML files' to see what you typed, and turn ignoring off to see the browser version.

It does not change on the fly; you have to do the 'New Document' thing before you create the file, and you have to do the 'Open and Save' thing before you open a file. (If you have made your HTML code in rich text format, you can get it across to another file by copying, changing the Preference, making a new text file, and pasting.)

Tip: I made two instances of TextEdit.app, each with different preferences (one for text and one for RTF).
aeroTreacle wins an Australian Macworld mug.

Each month STM (02 8338 0222) gives a Remedy shoulder bag worth \$99.95 to the *Australian Macworld* reader who sends in or posts to the forum the most intriguing query. STM's Remedy bag is a slim, light shoulder model that provides heavy-duty laptop protection. Send your query to macworldeditor@niche.com.au or post in the forums at www.macworld.com.au/forums. All queries and solutions are the sole property of Niche Media.



2. Make sure that you're using the latest versions of the Apple TV and iTunes software.
3. Is the Apple TV able to talk to the world? Ask it to play a trailer or an internet radio station to ensure that it's communicating over the network. Likewise, make sure your Mac can also connect to the outside and other devices on your network.
4. On the Apple TV look at Settings > Computers. Is the Apple TV linked to the Mac you expect it to be synced to?
5. Are your Apple TV and Mac on the same network?
6. Run Software Update (look for this option under the Apple menu) and check to see if there's a Bonjour update available to you. The Bonjour Update 2010-001 has been known to re-establish a severed Apple TV/Mac relationship. (Note that Apple hasn't posted this update to its site; it's available only via Software Update.)
7. On the Apple TV, choose Settings > Computers, select your linked Mac, press the remote's Play/Pause button, and in the Disconnect From iTunes screen choose Continue and press Play/Pause. You have just told your Apple TV to forget about your Mac. Open iTunes' Preferences and select Apple TV. If your Apple TV appears here, select it and choose Remove Apple TV. iTunes has now forgotten your Apple TV.

Return to the Apple TV, choose Settings > Computers, select Connect to iTunes, note the five-digit code, dash back to your Mac, select the Apple TV under the Devices heading (assuming it's there), enter those same five digits, name the Apple TV, and click OK. The Apple TV should now appear in iTunes' Preferences, and your Mac's name should appear in the Computers screen on the Apple TV.

8. On the Apple TV choose Settings > General > Reset Settings > Factory Restore. This takes your Apple TV back to ground zero. Every bit of media on it will be erased and it will revert to the software version that came with it. Once it reboots you'll likely have to update its software. Hopefully, when you do that, it and iTunes will see eye-to-eye.

9. Try reinstalling iTunes.

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN

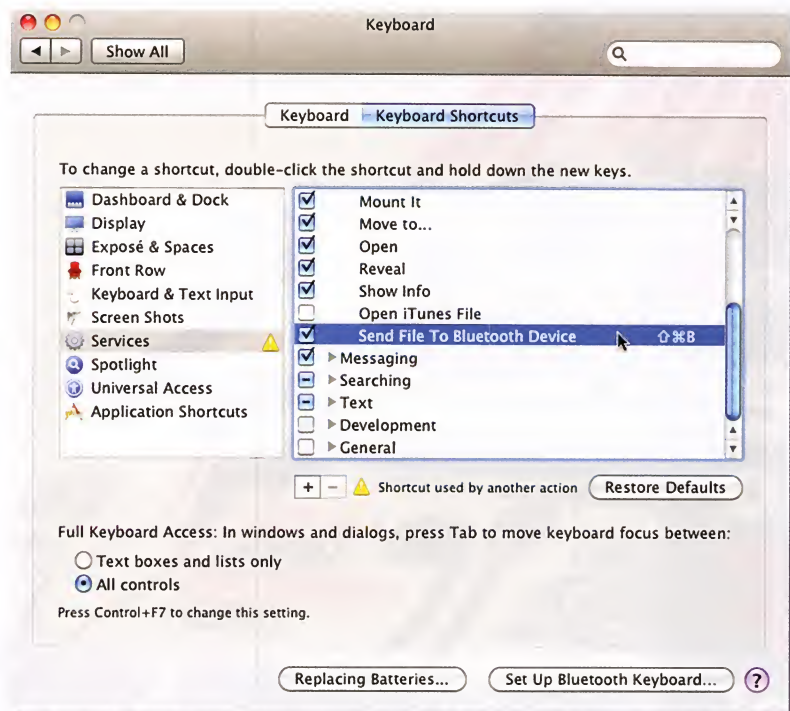
PERPLEXED BY PERMISSIONS

? I replaced the 500GB internal drive with a 1TB drive in my Mac Pro. I used SuperDuper to copy the disk. Now each time I create a file or folder on the desktop and place it on the hard-drive icon or each time I trash an item, I'm asked to enter my password. I reset the PRAM and repaired permissions to no avail. How can I get rid of that dialogue box?

Paul Moortgat

This permissions issue can't be treated with Disk Utility because it repairs permissions only for files installed by OS X, Software Update, or an Apple software installer. It won't touch your documents, your Home folder or third-party applications.

That said, something definitely got mucked up when you copied your files from your old drive to the new one. What I suggest is to select one of these files, press ⌘-I and, in the Sharing & Permissions area of the info window,



above. **Enable Bluetooth service.** Regain the option to send files from the Finder via Bluetooth by enabling this service.

see who 'owns' the file. If it's not you, there's your problem. If you change the permissions so that you own the file, you won't see the warning.

The broader way to deal with this in the traditional way is to locate the folders that contain your files – Documents, for example – select one, bring up its Info window with \mathbb{I} , change permissions so that you're the owner, and then choose Apply To Enclosed Items from the Tools menu at the bottom of the window. That should match the permissions of all the items in the folder.

Except it doesn't always work. If it doesn't, give the free BatChmod (macchampion.com/arbyssoft) a try. Like the Mac OS, it allows you to change the permissions of any files as well as those inside folders. Unlike the Mac OS, it does the job consistently. Note that you should *not* change the permissions of files in the System folder and the Library folder found at the root level of your hard drive (/System and /Library, respectively). If you do, your Mac may not be able to boot correctly or will behave oddly.

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN

ENABLE BLUETOOTH SHARING

? In Mac OS X 10.5 you could right-click (or Control-click) on a file, select More, and then choose an option to send the file to a Bluetooth device. In 10.6 this feature was removed. Is there a way to bring it back again?

Nick Bradsworth

Launch System Preferences, choose the Keyboard system preference, and click the Keyboard Shortcuts tab. Select Services, and under the Files And Folders heading, enable the Send File To Bluetooth Device option.

Now, when you right-click on a file, you'll see the option you want. Select it and Bluetooth File Exchange opens. Select the device you want and click the Send button. Alternatively, you can select the file and press \mathbb{S} -Shift-B.

For this to work you must enable Bluetooth Sharing in the Sharing system preference. And, of course, the device you're sending to must be paired with your Mac.

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN

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RED SHIELD APPEAL

NOW EAR THIS!

You can't just walk into a shop and test their earphones, so for hygienic reasons DAVE BULLARD has done the testing for you.

Hand up those of you who still use the set of white earbuds that shipped with your iPod or iPhone. Just as I thought – a lot of you. They've gone through a few revisions to get the size right, and to add remotes or microphones, but they're still the cheapest that Apple can get away with.

One of the main problems is their lack of clarity, which forces you to pump up the volume to hear everything you need to hear. This, fairly obviously, is bad for your hearing over the long term.

So we've done the most extensive *Australian Macworld* Lab Test ever, calling in 24 sets of earphones of different types from \$19.95 to \$689.

I've been using the Bose In-Ear v2s for a few years now, and rate them very highly, so I grabbed the new, improved set out of the box and used them as the benchmark for this Lab Test.


To level the playing field, and to represent the general use they'll get, all the earphones were tested on an iPhone 3GS and using a mix of music tracks that would test their strengths and weaknesses across the board: Tomaso Albinoni's *Adagio* in G Minor, for its range and depths hidden to inferior earphones or speakers; Andreas Wollenweider's *Book of Roses* for sound effects that, again, can be easily missed; Fatboy Slim's *Wonderful Night*, because it sounds strident if your earphones can't handle treble properly, and beautifully warm if they can; Them Crooked Vultures' *No One Loves Me*

& *Neither Do I*, for a bit of rock and bass; and *Autumn Leaves* by Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt, for some mid-range tenor sax and to see how the earphones handle the positions of a jazz quintet.

Most of the brands represented here make a range of earphones, so if we've reviewed a set with a microphone it doesn't mean there isn't a 'plain' set available. Many brands supplied a few sets for us to choose from, so the choices here were made simply to get a good balance across the price ranges.

More than any other products, earphones seem to have the wildest price variations at retail. As always, we've given the recommended retail prices as supplied by the

the great sound of many earphones is spoilt by the supremely irritating noise caused by moving or touched cables. Many sets lost points because of it.

Finally, a word about the mouse ratings here. We've split the earphones into three price brackets, so the rating of each product applies to that price bracket only. In other words, don't expect a four-mouse set in the sub-\$50 bracket to be the equal of a four-mouse product in the over-\$200 section. 

We've placed an emphasis on cable noise (or microphonics) as the great sound of many earphones is spoilt by the supremely irritating noise caused by moving or touched cables."

manufacturer or distributor, but the street prices should be below this – and well below, in some cases.

As an example, the most expensive pair of earphones here – the Shure SE530s – have an RRP of \$689, but can be picked up for as little as \$449.

We've placed an emphasis on cable noise (or microphonics) as



Outstanding



Very good



Good



Flawed



Unacceptable

UNDER \$50

IFROGZ EARPOLLUTION PLUGZ

These are a big surprise, a BIG surprise. It's seldom that the cheapest item in a Lab Test performs as well as some of the big guns. Like most in this test, the Plugz are the 'noise isolating' type that fit in the ear canal. Sound: Well balanced and musical for the price; Comfort: Good; Cable noise: High; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three sets; Case: No.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. I'm stunned that a pair of \$19.95 earphones can perform this well. At this price, the iFrogz EarPollution Plugz rate a Best Buy – but you do have to live with quite a bit of cable noise.

Adeal, www.adeal.com.au

Pros Sound; price; fit

Cons Cable noise

RRP \$19.95



JVC GUMY

As the name implies, the JVC Gumys have a cool soft rubber body in nine lolly colours. They're similar to the stock iPod/iPhone earbuds in that they're disc-shaped and sit in the outer ear rather than in the ear canal like more modern ones. Sound: Not bad for the price, though they can be strident. Nice midrange. Comfort: Soft rubber is good, but they kept on falling out of my ears; Cable noise: Minimal; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: No; Case: No.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The Gumys aren't bad for the price, but they won't fit everyone's ears.

JVC, www.jvc-australia.com

Pros Price; kid-friendly design

Cons Fit is not universal

RRP \$25



GRIFFIN TUNEBUDS

The Griffin TuneBuds are the cheapest earphones in this Lab Test to come with a carrying case – albeit a pretty cheap one. They're fairly well-specced with 97dB sensitivity and 20Hz-20kHz frequency response, but don't stand up against the similarly specced iFrogz. Sound: Pleasant, though a bit thin and lacking in detail. Comfort: Good; Cable noise: Slight; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: Yes.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The TuneBuds are reasonable earphones but there's nothing really exciting about them. I do like the 1.2m cable, though.

Griffin, www.griffintechnology.com

Pros Comfortable

Cons Mediocre sound

RRP \$29.95



TDK EB750

If you want all-metal earphones at the sub-\$50 mark, the aluminium TDK EB750s are worth a look. Sound: The EB750s handle bass pretty well and deliver well in the midrange, so they're good for pop and rock. Don't expect any detail, though. Comfort: Neutral. The long casings felt as if they were sticking quite far out of my ears, and they're a little heavy. Cable noise: Moderate; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: Yes, soft.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. A middle-of-the-road set of earphones, but the aluminium look might tempt you over the edge.

TDK, www.tdk-media.com.au

Pros All-metal look

Cons Not the most comfortable

RRP \$39.95



RADIUS TRUTUNE

The Radius TruTune Fine Color Series are nice-looking metal earphones with subtle colour accents. There are five colours currently available. Sound: The TruTunes are what audiophiles call 'tizzy', meaning that the treble is overstated and high. If you have a song with lots of cymbal, for instance, you'll hear lots of tss-tss-tss. Other than that, though, they're quite pleasant; Comfort: Good; Cable noise: Minimal; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: No.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Pleasing overall, and the long 1.2m cord makes a difference.

Conexus, www.conexus.com.au

Pros Good looks

Cons Too much treble

RRP \$49

**HALO**

If you've never been able to find a decent pair of earphones to exercise with, search no more. These are headphones in a headband, and are a brilliant idea from Aussie industrial designer Kirsten Black. Sound: Very musical – a pleasure to listen to; Comfort: Very, very comfortable – the speakers can be moved within the band for best fit; Cable noise: None; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Not needed; Case: No.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The Halos are the dream headphones/earphones for any sportsperson. They'd be pretty darned good for travelling as well.

Softwear, www.haloheadphones.com

Pros Very pleasing sound; comfort; sports-friendly

Cons None

RRP \$49.95

**YAMAHA EPH-20**

Yamaha's solid music background really comes out in these just-released earphones. Everything about them, from design to comfort and sound, is satisfying. Sound: The EPH-20s have tons of detail, and handled all genres with aplomb. They're not a premium set, but at under \$50 you can't go wrong. Comfort: Super-comfy, with an angled design that points the speakers into the ear canal; Cable noise: Moderate; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: No.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Like the iFrogz, the EPH-20s punch way above their price point.

Yamaha, www.yamahamusic.com.au

Pros Great sound, design and comfort

Cons None at this price

RRP \$49

**MUSE SOCIALITE**

MUSE is a Melbourne-based company bent on producing well-designed and affordable headphones. There's a range of 10 earbuds, each with a 'personality' name. We tried the 'sleek, stylish, sexy' Socialites. Sound: Very good. Lacking in some detail but very listenable; Comfort: Good, though the Yamaha's angled approach is better; Cable noise: High; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – Three. Case: Yes, soft.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. A very good set of earphones for the price, bar one thing: the cable noise really detracts from the sound.

MUSE, museaudio.com.au

Pros Sound; design

Cons High cable noise

RRP \$49.95



\$50 - \$200

EDITOR'S PICK

KLIPSCH IMAGE S2m

You can buy the Klipsch Image X10 earphones for \$399.95, but for \$300 less you can get the S2m set. Like the others in this price range, the S2ms won't give you a true-to-life sound with high fidelity, but they do an excellent job. Sound: Detailed and crisp across the range; Comfort: Very good. The oval earpieces fit nicely into the ear canal; Cable noise: Moderate; iPhone mic: Yes; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: Yes, soft.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. You'd expect a loudspeaker company to deliver excellent earphones, and Klipsch certainly does.

Powermove, www.powermove.com.au

Pros Great sound at this price

Cons Slight cable noise

RRP \$99.95



H2O AUDIO SURGE SPORTSWRAP

While the Halos are great for exercising, they're not suited to extreme sports. The Sportswraps are, though, and even go 3.5m underwater. Sound: Fair. A little thin, but pleasant; Comfort: Good. They grip well; Cable noise: None; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – seven elastomer and foam ones so you can get the right fit to get a watertight seal; Case: No.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. With the Surge Sportswraps you're not getting \$100 sound – you're paying for the benefits you get from waterproof earphones that will stay in while you're being active.

Next Destination, www.nextdestination.com.au

Pros Waterproof; will stay on no matter what

Cons Sound isn't great

RRP \$99



AIAIAI SWIRL 2.0

These Danish earphones are pretty funky with their very plastic looks. Sound: Good for the price. At \$80 you expect your earphones to start delivering more, and the Aiaiais certainly do. Comfort: OK – there are five earpieces to choose from, but I didn't find them very comfortable. Cable noise: Minimal; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – five; Case: No..

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The sound from these earphones was a very pleasant surprise. Somehow I didn't equate plastic with good sound, but I was wrong.

www.pica.com.au or www.nextbyte.com.au

Pros Good sound

Cons Not the most comfortable

RRP \$79.95



JAYBIRD ENDORPHIN

I've been using a pair of JayBird Tiger Eyes for a few months, and while I like the sound I'm put off by the cable noise. The slightly dearer Endorphins have the same problem. Sound: Full and pleasing. Comfort: Fair. The cord goes forward, then back over the top of the ear. It can be fed through a plastic over-ear guide; Cable noise: Severe; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – eight; Case: Yes.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. A nice set, but strange design. Lifetime warranty against sweat.

JayBird, www.jaybirdgear.com

Pros Good sound

Cons Cable noise is distracting; strange design

RRP US\$99 (about \$107)



APPLE IN-EAR HEADPHONES

Apple set the standard for earbuds when it first brought out the iPod, but the quality of the ones it provides with iPods and iPhones is only so-so. These in-ear models are more on the money. Sound: They approach the Klipsches for the kind of sound you should expect for around \$100. But while they have a very good, if slightly bright, sound these don't have the same dynamic range. Comfort: Great; Cable noise: Slight; iPhone mic: Yes; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: Yes.

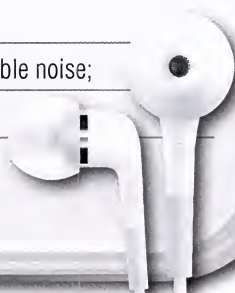
Australian Macworld's buying advice. A very nice pair of earphones for the price.

Apple, www.apple.com.au

Pros Comfort; nice Apple design

Cons Slightly bright treble; some cable noise;

RRP \$119

**MOTOROLA MOTOROKR S9-HD**

The only pair of wireless earphones in this test, the S9-HDs performed really well. Pairing with an iPhone took seconds, and the signal was good for about 20m in direct line of sight. Sound: Well modulated and pleasant, but lacking a little detail; Comfort: Good, and these wraparounds will stay put during exercise; Cable noise: None (there's no cable!); iPhone mic: Yes; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: Yes, soft.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Being able to leave your iPhone in your gym locker or backpack is a real plus, so these earphones have real appeal.

Motorola, www.motorola.com/au

Pros Bluetooth; rechargeable; good sound

Cons Dated styling

RRP \$129.95

**SENNHEISER ADIDAS CX680 SPORTS**

These Adidas-branded Sennheiser sports earphones are among the best we've seen. Sound: Beautifully balanced, with loads of detail; Comfort: Really, really good. They come with 'normal' earbuds and with clever 'EarFins' for a secure fit; Cable noise: Moderate; iPhone mic: No, but there's a volume control on an extension cable; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – six; Case: Yes, soft.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. We've come to expect great things from Sennheiser, and the CX680s are very good earphones indeed. But there is some cable noise, which you don't want when you're exercising.

Syntec International, www.syntec.com.au

Pros Great sound and design

Cons Cable noise

RRP \$129.95

**ETYMOTIC HF5**

Etymotic Research really knows its audio oats. Sound: We're starting to get into audiophile territory now, and a sound that's very natural and open; Comfort: Very good; Cable noise: Slight; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: Yes.

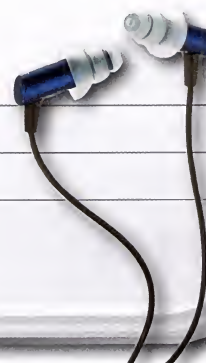
Australian Macworld's buying advice. Most earphones introduce some colouration into their sound – the bass is boosted, or the treble brightened up – but those who prefer their music natural and unadulterated need to look at something like these sound-isolating Etymotics.

Etymotic, www.etymotic.com

Pros Clean sound

Cons Slight cable noise

RRP US\$149 (about \$160)



OVER \$200

BOSE MOBILE IN-EAR HEADSET

As I said before, I've long been a fan of Bose In-Ear earphones, so I was keen to see what the latest were like. They delivered the goods. Sound: Wonderfully full and musical. There's loads of bass for lovers of rock and pop, but it doesn't overstate itself in jazz or classical; Comfort: Super-comfortable; Cable noise: None; iPhone mic: Yes; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: Yes.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The Bose In-Ears are still a firm favourite. Like other Bose products, they warm the music up a bit, so lovers of pure, natural sound should look elsewhere.

Bose, www.bose.com.au

Pros Great sound; comfort

Cons None

RRP \$199.95



EDITOR'S PICK

B&O A8

Bang & Olufsen is sometimes accused of valuing style over substance, but that's really not the case. The quality is always there, though quite expensive. But these earphones sit in the right price range. Sound: Lovely, but with some treble emphasis; Comfort: Good, if you like ear clips; Cable noise: None; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Four sets of foam covers; Case: Yes.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. These earphones are very good, and the price is right.

Bang & Olufsen, www.bang-olufsen.com

Pros Good sound; high build quality; airline adaptor

Cons Over-ear clips not the most comfortable solution

RRP \$220



BEATS BY DR. DRE TOUR

The Beats headphones and earphones made by Monster are fast becoming iconic due to a mix of high-quality materials, great sound and very cool styling. Sound: Very similar to the Boses – well-balanced but with heaps of bass and warmth. Comfort: The earpieces are on the big and heavy side; Cable noise: Slight; iPhone mic: Yes; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – seven; Case: Yes.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. It's tough choosing between the Beats and the Boses as far as sound goes, but the Boses are far more comfortable. Love the cool design and ribbon cables, though.

Convoy International, www.ehifi.com.au

Pros Great sound; very cool design

Cons Large and heavy earpieces

RRP \$229



ULTIMATE EARS SUPER.FI 5vi

Unlike most makers, who supplied new earphones for this Lab Test, Ultimate Ears sent a used set with a loose connection. We were able to juggle it to get audio, but can't be sure this didn't affect the sound. Sound: Very nice. Warm and engaging, with lots of detail; Comfort: Fair, but only one set of earpieces was supplied, so we couldn't experiment; Cable noise: Severe; iPhone mic: Yes; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – five; Case: Yes.

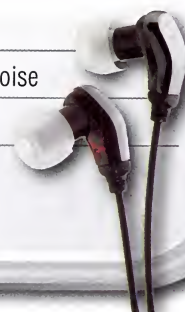
Australian Macworld's buying advice. The comfort factor and cable noise severely detracted from the above-average audio of the 5vis, which is a shame.

Ultimate Ears, www.ultimateears.com

Pros Above-average sound

Cons Not very comfortable; bad cable noise

RRP \$249.95





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OVER \$200

ATOMIC FLOYD AIRJAX TITANIUM2

Great design and packaging is important in the earphone world, where you can't try before you buy. Atomic Floyd has realised this, with products that scream "Buy me!" Sound: The audio lives up to the Titanium2's cool looks. Smooth, with great detail and balance, and good sound-staging; Comfort: Great; Cable noise: None; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: No, they sit outside the ear canal, held in place by over-ear hooks; Case: Yes.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. If you don't like over-ear hooks, there are other, just-as-good AFs without them. Airline and 6.3mm adaptors included.

Simms International, www.simms.com.au

Pros Great sound; very comfy; look great

Cons None

RRP \$299



AUDIO-TECHNICA ATH-CKM90

With their cheap packaging and pedestrian design, these earphones don't present themselves as high-end. The sound more than makes up for this, though. Sound: Balanced and full, yet with quite a bit of transparency. Very musical and listenable; Comfort: Good, but nothing exceptional; Cable noise: Moderate; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – three; Case: Yes, soft.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The ATH-CKM90s are a nice pair of earphones, but are a bit overpriced. Also, when you're paying \$300 you really don't want to contend with cable noise.

TAG, www.tag.com.au

Pros Very listenable; 1.6m cable with extension

Cons Price; cable noise

RRP \$299



SONY MDR-NC300D

Many of the earphones in this Lab Test are noise-isolating – using a snug, in-ear fit to block out noise – but these are the only pair here to use active noise cancelling (NC). They have a palm-sized control unit housing an AA battery and circuits to create an 'anti-wave' that cancels outside noise. Sound: Very pleasant. The NC works very well; Comfort: Good; Cable noise: Moderate; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – seven; Case: Yes.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The Sonys are impressive, but have the added bulk of the battery unit. For active NC, I'd probably go for bigger headphones.

Sony, www.sony.com.au

Pros Noise cancelling

Cons Bulky battery unit

RRP \$549



SHURE SE530

At the almost-\$700 mark you need earphones that are really going to deliver. The Shures sure do this, via a dedicated tweeter and dual woofers in each earpiece. Sound: Wonderful. The audio is clear, clean and detailed, with great sustain and a wide and accurate soundstage; Comfort: The SE530s feel quite big and heavy in the ear at first, but sit snugly; Cable noise: None; iPhone mic: No; Interchangeable earpieces: Yes – four; Case: Yes.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. These are audiophile's earphones, giving the most natural sound of any tested. The size makes them a little unwieldy.

Jands, www.jands.com.au

Pros Amazing sound

Cons Size; price

RRP \$689



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State of the art

Wacom shows sensitive side in top tablet.

The Apple iPad may be the most-talked-about touch-sensitive device at the moment, but for digital artists, the Wacom Cintiq 21UX interactive pen display still holds the title of top tablet.

Thanks to a recent redesign, the 22in Cintiq now offers twice the pressure sensitivity of its predecessor, two strategically repositioned Touch Strips, and 16 programmable ExpressKeys that enable you to customise the tablet to fit your work style.

Traditional graphics tablets require you to sketch on one surface and watch as the results appear on the monitor on the other side of your desk. This approach can be tricky to master. With the Cintiq, you draw directly on the built-in monitor screen. Even better, depending on the software brush you select, you can achieve different artistic effects. Push harder and your stroke darkens. Tilt the pen for a broader line.

The new Cintiq 21UX utilises Wacom's second-generation sensor (already incorporated into its Intuos 4 product line) to offer an impressive 2048 levels of pressure sensitivity.

Couple the Cintiq with a capable graphics program such as Adobe Photoshop or Corel Painter and you can achieve very nuanced, organic-looking illustrations without giving up the flexibility of working in the digital realm.

The updated pen features a soft rubber grip that makes it very comfortable to hold. Beneath your index finger is a programmable rocker switch that you can use to right-click or double-click as you point with the pen's nib. There's even an eraser on the other end of the pen for quickly cleaning up stray scribbles.

One-time pen calibration took less than 30 seconds. Once calibrated, the pen tracked remarkably accurately, even at the very edges of the working area where some tablets fail.

As with its previous incarnation, the updated Cintiq incorporates two touch-sensitive strips that allow you to quickly zoom, scroll, change brush size or rotate the canvas just by dragging your fingertip. In the redesign, these Touch Strips are relocated to the back side of the unit to avoid accidental activation while sketching.

The specific Touch Strip function is designated by using one of the two round toggle buttons on the front of the unit. Also included are 16 programmable ExpressKeys – symmetrically located, of course, so that the unit can be used just as easily by lefties as righties.

The Cintiq boasts an admirable 1600 x 1200-pixel resolution, 21.3in TFT display (measured diagonally). For those accustomed to the ubiquitous widescreen monitor, the Cintiq's 4:3 aspect ratio may seem like a bit of a throwback, but it makes the physical geometry of rotating the monitor from portrait to landscape

Wacom Cintiq 21UX

Wacom, www.buywacom.com.au

Pros Double the pressure sensitivity of previous model; 16 programmable ExpressKeys; twin Touch Strips relocated to rear of unit; Screen reclines and rotates using provided stand; solid-feeling, textured glass

Cons Hefty size and beefy tether limits portability; price still too steep for most users

RRP \$2848




much easier. Apple Cinema Display users might notice that the Cintiq is not quite as bright (200 cd/m² vs Apple's 330 cd/m²).

The included display stand allows the tablet to be adjusted from a near-horizontal 10-degree incline to a maximum of 65 degrees. Removing the tablet from the stand is a cinch, but given the unit's size I found it best to leave it be.

Although the unit elegantly integrates its video, data, and power connections into a single six-foot cable, the 1.3cm-thick cord is a bit unwieldy for stand-free, casual operation. Current Cintiq owners looking to upgrade to a less cumbersome model will have to wait.

Australian Macworld's buying

advice. Wacom's Cintiq 21UX interactive pen display is a dream tool for electronic artists looking to expand their digital palettes. But with a \$2848 price tag and a weight of nearly 9kg, many will find it too costly or too bulky to meet their needs. 

— TIM HADDOCK



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Sounds of silence

DAB+ radio is let down by short aerial.

If you're looking to embrace the brave new world of digital radio, Grundig's solar-powered gener8sol could leave you stranded.

The gener8sol sounds like a brilliant concept – a combination FM and DAB+ radio with a built-in solar panel. Now you can listen to all the digital radio channels – the simulcasts and the new digital-only stations – plus fall back to FM if required.

The two-line LCD displays station details when you're in DAB+ mode, so you have don't have to go searching up and down the dial. The solar panel is the icing on the cake, making it perfect for taking on the road or just lounging in the backyard.

Fire up the gener8sol and it comes to life straight away, with an icon showing whether it's happy with the available light. It works outside on an overcast day or inside under artificial light, powering the radio while charging the 10-hour internal battery.

Should you be stuck in the dark, the gener8sol also comes with an AC adaptor. You'll also find a headphone output and auxiliary input at the rear.

The final step in setting up the gener8sol is extracting the removable aerial from its slot in the back of the unit and screwing it into the aerial socket on the top. Unfortunately this is where the gener8sol falls flat. Just like the early days of digital television, digital radio coverage is patchy in a lot of areas – especially if you're down in a valley. Reception can be even worse once you get indoors.

Naturally the solution is to extend your aerial and angle it for the best possible reception. Unfortunately that's impossible with the gener8sol. The aerial is a mere 12cm long and sticks straight up, with no freedom to adjust the angle. Even on our balcony the gener8sol couldn't receive a steady DAB+ digital signal, only catching snippets of broadcasts when we touched the aerial.

Digital radio is not like analogue radio where you can listen to a weak signal and try to ignore the static – it offers perfect sound or no sound at all."



Digital radio is not like analogue radio where you can listen to a weak signal and try to ignore the static – it offers perfect sound or no sound at all.

We tested a Pure One Classic (\$169) digital radio in the same location, which fared little better with its aerial sticking up 12cm. Once we extended the Pure's aerial to its full 75cm length and angled it slightly

Grundig gener8sol

Bush Australia, www.grundig.net.au

Pros Built-in battery; solar panel

Cons Mediocre sound; terrible aerial

RRP \$229



we had a solid three bar signal. If only the gener8sol featured an extendable, adjustable aerial it may have also performed admirably – but we'll never know because of the pathetic aerial supplied.

Switching the gener8sol back to FM managed to get a scratchy signal, while the Pure One Classic pulled in a crystal-clear FM signal even with its aerial retracted.

When you can get a signal the gener8sol's built-in 2-watt mono speaker offers a loud but brash sound that's tolerable for music but a little hollow for talkback – and there's no option to adjust the treble or bass. It also lacks the pause and rewind features found on many digital radios.

Australian Macworld's buying

advice. The gener8sol's solar panel is alluring, yet, considering the radio is compact and designed for portability, you'll almost certainly run into situations where the aerial lets you down. For the asking price there are better digital radios around with better aerials and more features. The gener8sol is probably best suited to backyard use – perhaps on the deck or at the barbie – but first get an iron-clad guarantee you can take it back to the shop if the signal is poor. 📶

— ADAM TURNER



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ONE MORE THING...

Hands-on with iPhone OS 4

The iPhone 4 was presented as having seven 'tent-pole' features. These are the features that Apple wants the world to know about, but if you're an existing iPhone user they're not the features most likely to get you excited.

A contact of mine let me spend some time with an early beta version of iPhone OS 4 and I can report some things you might not have heard about anywhere else.

First off, the multitasking is going to be really good, but my initial impressions are that many users are going to find that it ultimately slows down their phones. Double tapping the home button brings up a app switcher, and the most recent apps automatically appear in the first page.

In the beta version I tried multitasking worked well for the multiple-tasking compliant Apple apps, while third party apps not programmed to be multitasking capable simply just reloaded each time they are used. However, even on the latest-generation iPhone 3GS switching was quite slow and jerky.

In case you haven't heard, multitasking is only going to work if you've got an iPhone 3GS. Older 3G customers need not apply. While some assume the reason for this restriction is because Apple are trying to be big and bad, the truth is the older 3G model just doesn't have the required RAM and processor speed to make the experience usable.

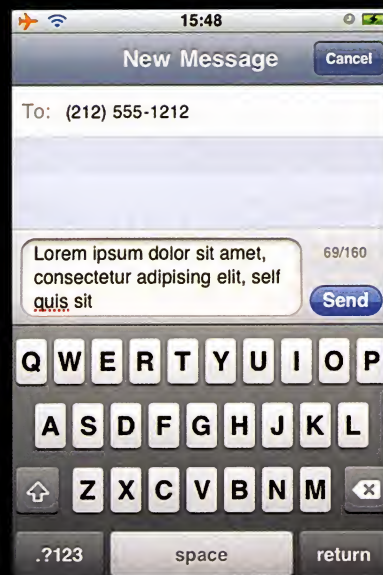
But this aside, it's the small touches that make all the difference.

For example, in iPhone Mail, new data detectors make extracting information much easier. If you receive an email that contains text such as "Let's go out for dinner

today at 7" mail will underline it and colour the text blue. If you click on it a new Calendar appointment will open for today at 7pm with the subject line of the email inserted as the title of the appointment. That's cool.

Mail has other treats waiting for you too. If you have multiple inboxes you can now see a consolidated view of them all. When you open a message and want to take action – filing it, for example – Mail will only show you the options relevant to that mailbox.

If you're a Gmail or Google apps user you'll also like the preference that lets you toggle between 'swipe to delete' or 'swipe to archive'.



The multitasking is going to be really good, but... many users are going to find that it ultimately slows down their phones."

Apple also keeps adding features to iPhone OS 4 that should have been there from the beginning, such as a character count for SMS (in true Apple style the count only appears when you are more than one line into the SMS), the ability to completely disable data (helpful if you're on an account without a specified data allowance) and the ability to use Bluetooth keyboards for text input.

Cosmetically, you'll also notice some immediate differences.

Wallpaper is now customisable, and the build we saw shipped with a 'glass with rain droplets' image as standard; a strange choice given the number of people I know who have had to take their iPhones to be repaired due to water damage!

In the dock, your main four apps live now sit on a reflective glass sheet à la Snow Leopard. There's also a new calculator icon, but the app is still identical to the one found in OS 3.

While the features looked great, my contact indicated that OS 4 is still quite buggy and far from complete. In fact he noted that with each revision you could see Apple experimenting with things that he thought were feature-complete, and in some cases adding or removing features too.

Still, with iPhone OS 4 expected to ship this month alongside a new iPhone (rumours put the name as iPhone HD) the next major release is looking to be a worthwhile upgrade. 🐘

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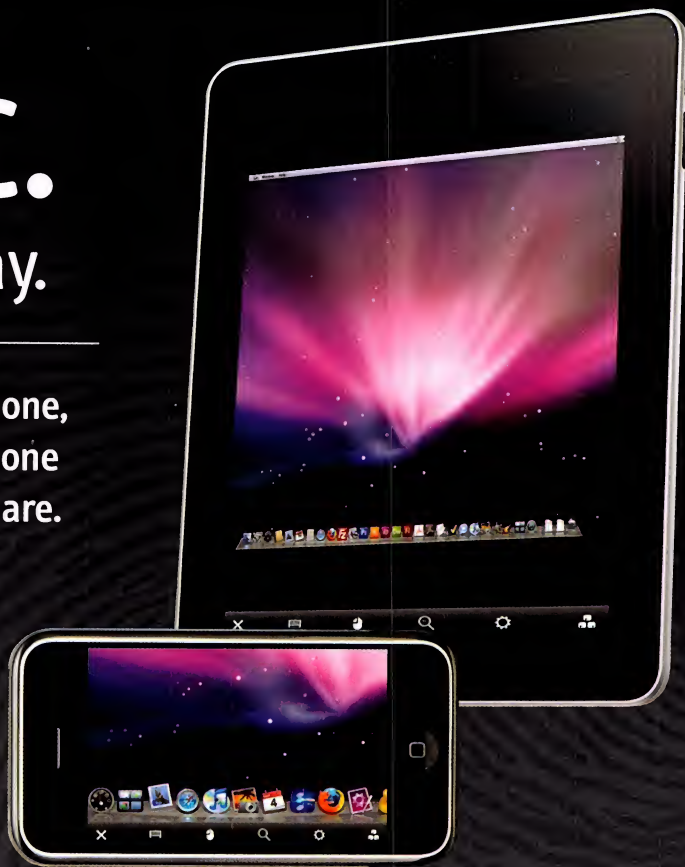
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